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THURSDAY, MARCH 8TH, 2012

All Saints pupils celebrated St David's Day last week - see more pictures on page 23.



Your views on fuel price rises?

NEXT week, The GEM will be examining how the record rises in the price of fuel are affecting readers in the Vale and Bridgend areas.

Do you run a business that is struggling to turn a profit because it costs so much to fill up your vehicles with petrol or diesel?

Are you a family member who is cutting out trips or days out in the car because it is getting too expensive?

Should we be looking more at alternative forms of energy, such as electric cars?

We want to hear your views. Please email our editorial department at: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk.

'WE CAN BECOME BIGGER THAN CARDIFF BAY!' IS RALLYING CALL

Unanimous! Councillors back the new outline plans for Island Pleasure Park

AT last, after debate, studies, and the occasional disagreement, outline plans for a new development at Barry Island's Pleasure Park have been given the stamp of approval by local decision makers.

On Thursday, March 1, the Vale's planning councillors backed a proposed £70million scheme.

The site owner, Mr Ian Rogers, was overjoyed at the decision.

He said: "It has been a long time coming. To say I'm over the moon would be an understatement."

"It is just what we need to put Barry back on the map."

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

"I am ecstatic and to be honest, if it goes ahead, it would be a dream come true for me, and my father, the late Ken Rogers."

"It has given me a new lease of life. I am on a mission to get this fantastic development under way."

"I am very sentimental about Barry Island. I was overwhelmed when it was a unanimous decision. I will not let the people of Barry down."

The committee's chairman, Coun Jeff James, was particularly pleased that all the members of the committee were in broad agreement.

He said: "I congratulate the planning committee for having the foresight to unanimously approve this exciting project, which will undoubtedly put Barry Island firmly on the 21st century map."

"The new cinema and leisure facilities, as well as multi-storey car park, is just what is needed to attract visitors and residents come rain or shine."

Coun James' 'come rain or shine' remark is significant because Island traders have repeatedly emphasised the need for an indoor entertainment complex, pointing out that they suffer from 'customer-flight' when the weather turns grim.

The development would include flats, a nursing home, restaurants, a cafe and a cinema.

Although the plans are an 'outline' and more detailed ones will have to be submitted, councillors are effectively saying the current proposals are along the



Marco Zeraschi, of Marco's Cafe, is passionate about Barry Island and declared: "We can become bigger than Cardiff Bay."

right lines. Marco Zeraschi, who has worked on the Island for more than 30 years, and has lobbied for a local indoor entertainment complex, said: "If the development gets the go-ahead, it could set the tone for the next three to four decades."

"We could be bigger than Cardiff Bay. We have a number of things that it can't match - a fantastic, five-star beach, a rail link, promenades and gardens."

"One thing I believe firmly is that any new development has to have style."

"We want to see a cinema, restaurants and a cafe - people talk about competition arriving, competition is good!"

Marco insisted that recent years had proved the resilience of tourism on the Island.

"In 1998, when the holiday camp went, it was the lowest point possible. People wondered how things would recover."

"In recent history, it has got better and better each year - a lot of the thanks for that goes to the Vale Council for its commitment and the work done by the visible services department."

"What we'd also like to see is something at Nell's Point that complements the Pleasure Park."

NURSING HOME

Some people have expressed doubts about whether a nursing home should be part of a new development. One idea being considered is for the residential and leisure sections to be separated by a walkway, with the entrance on one side of the site opposite the train station.

Marco said: "I like the idea of accommodation for older people being included. Why should people have to be in a tower block in a city, when they could come here and have a wonderful view?"

"Families will enjoy coming to the Island to visit them and will spend money while they are here."

The Save our Cinema Association (SOCA) said it now hoped multiplex operators would be considering the Island as a possible location.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

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'Parties' self-promotion over Approach'

I HAVE been reading with interest, the recent letters concerning Cemetery Approach, Barry.

Was it not prudent in the first place that Coun Keith Lewis brought this issue into the public domain, with his initial letter correcting Coun Claire Curtis on the errors he said she made regarding the land at Cemetery Approach and Labour's manifesto promises?

All political parties now seem to be vying for the accolade of saving this land from development, but let's not forget

it was Coun Lewis who had the courage to challenge Coun Curtis and set off the debate we have seen.

Not surprising, really, since it was Coun Lewis' instigation and subsequent campaigning that also raised the issue of White Farm – despite what other councillors claim.

Sadly, not everyone else's motive is to raise and challenge issues that matter to the constituents they are supposed to represent – some are more interested in publicity-seeking and self-promotion!

Ann Crawley, Barry.

'Stop the reckless boy racers on Plymouth Road'

WITH road safety being a paramount subject of discussion in the Vale, I would like to point out yet another local road of particular concern, Plymouth Road, Barry Island.

The overall safety of this road is of major concern, to me and other residents of Barry Island.

After many years of campaigning by our great friend, the late Mr Roy Croydon, we were afforded the enormous privilege of a pedestrian crossing on Plymouth Road, courtesy of the

Vale Council.

Sadly, this road is now being totally abused by the likes of boy racers and many other individuals at the wheel of a lethal weapon – commonly known as the motor car.

These individuals seem to thrive on their own adrenalin fix and have no real concern for the safety of the public at large.

The community would appreciate some form of traffic-calming measure in this area of imminent danger, at the Vale Council's earliest convenience.

Barrie V Evans, (Independent candidate, Baruc ward).

Protect the swans from dog attacks

FOLLOWING some bad news, I decided to take myself off to somewhere I hadn't been for a while, The Knap lake – I thought it would be very tranquil on such a lovely day.

I sat on a bench, deep in thought, watching the swans.

It was not very peaceful; however, in the hour I was there, on

two occasions, two different swans were attacked by dogs, feathers flying, full-on attacks.

The owners just called their dogs off. I found all of this quite distressing.

The swans are in their own environment and should not have to be subjected to this trauma, especially when there is a beach just behind – a far more suitable place for dog walking.

S Carty, Barry.

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Readers' Letters

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'Devolution road a tragedy for Wales?'

I WRITE as a disillusioned devolutionist – devolution was never meant to be a back door to independence.

Scotland's referendum is inexorably dragging talk of independence for Wales along in its wake. And that would be a tragedy for Wales.

Devolution was meant to be regional, not national. Healthy regional democracies were expected in the north east, the Midlands, the south West – a vision that sank without trace after the hefty rejection of devolution by the north east.

'Incompetence over budget'

I WOULD like to congratulate the Vale Council on the way they have handled the social services budget on a gross overspend in the current financial year of some £3.5million.

How on earth can they explain this gross incompetence? The council are now talking about cuts and job losses to try and re-balance the books.

We are also – as it now appears likely to receive another hike in council tax, which will probably be in excess of the 1.7 per cent proposed, when you add on police and local council share.

It is quite obvious that the present members of the Vale Council are not fit for purpose, and could I suggest that the first lot of job cuts start with the council leader himself, along with the chief executive?

D J Radford, Barry.

LABOUR PLEDGE ON TRAFFIC LIGHTS

I T was interesting to read your recent article, on the Barry Docks Link Road, where the Vale Council commented about making a bid to the South Wales Transport Alliance (SEWTA) to make improvements to the road.

This is clearly in response to Labour's pledge to finalise the long outstanding safety measures for the Barry Docks Link Road and provide traffic lights at the Coldbrook Road and Argae Lane junction, if elected to run the Vale Council on May 3.

Labour has made this pledge because nothing had been finalised by the current Conservative

council, so it is somewhat cynical of them and other political parties to try to respond to our pledges.

To see other politicians clamouring to have their pictures taken at the junction and claim they will now do something is rather annoying.

The Tories say that the council has submitted a bid for a grant from SEWTA and they hope that this will be successful, but they don't say what they will do if the bid is unsuccessful.

The Barry Independents claim that the opposition parties on the council have done nothing about this, but they are wrong.

If anyone cares to look at the minutes of the economy and envi-

ronment committee over several years, you will see that I initiated the reports to scrutiny on the safety issues on the Docks Link Road.

That resulted in it being discussed on many occasions – and with the help of the chair of that committee, I was able to keep it on the agenda until the Tories had to accept that safety improvements had to be looked into.

If Labour are returned at the council elections in May, we make the firm commitment that we will introduce the traffic lights system, whether or not any grant is successful.
Anne Moore, (Labour councillor for Cadoc ward, Barry)

No to NHS 'privileges'

I N last week's GEM, there were five photos of our MP, Alun Cairns – he certainly isn't publicity shy.

In his article 'Vale MPs Viewpoint,' he writes that he hopes that over time we will be allowed the same privileges in Wales as communities in England.

I hope not, I do not want to have to pay for prescriptions, or have to join the fight to stop the break-up of the NHS.

Gerald Smith, Llanmaes

'Don't play politics with Barry's future'

I HAVE been saddened to read the comments of some councillors in the media over the last couple of weeks.

I do not believe that they do the people of Barry and the future prosperity of the town any good at all by "running down" the efforts of the Barry Regeneration Area and its board for their own political purposes.

The board is doing its very best to 'make a difference' and, while there remains a great deal more to do, I really do believe that we are making progress.

That said, any regeneration can easily founder if elected politicians and other opinion formers are 'feeding a continual stream of negative publicity' to the media.

This will undoubtedly result in the private sec-

tor taking a view that Barry is simply not a suitable place to do business.

If this view prevails, then it does not really matter how much public sector money is spent in the town.

It is a fact that without private sector investment, Barry will never fulfil its tremendous potential and best make use of its unique and very special characteristics.

I would ask all our politicians and opinion formers not to play politics with the future of Barry as we enter the election season. It can only do great harm to the town and its people.

Coun Rhodri Traherne, Chair of the Barry Regeneration Area Partnership Board, and cabinet member for economic development and regeneration Vale Council.

'BLOCK OFF LINK ROAD'

HERE we go again! We have had tins of paint spread around, numerous road signs erected and even flashing lights which nobody takes any notice of.

Now we have the proposal to install traffic lights on the Barry Docks link road. If they are installed, then it will be an amber gamblers' charter.

Traffic coming down the hill, on either side, will speed up to try to beat the lights. Heavy goods vehicles will have to crawl up the hill when

setting off from the lights (and what joy), boy racers will have their own set of lights to start their races.

There is only one solution to the problem of traffic control on the docks link road and that is to install concrete blocks from Lidl round about down the centre to McDonalds roundabout with no gaps.

OK, private motorists will have to travel a few hundred yards further, but at the same time they and passengers will be safer.

Dave Adams, Barry.

TELL US YOUR VIEW!
If you want to make a point on a local issue, email us at: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL MARCH 15)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
08 Thur	06.12	9.9	18.37	10.0
09 Fri	06.55	10.4	19.18	10.3
10 Sat	07.37	10.6	20.00	10.5
11 Sun	08.16	10.5	20.39	10.3
12 Mon	08.59	10.2	21.18	9.9
13 Tues	09.41	9.7	22.02	9.4
14 Wed	10.27	8.9	22.52	8.7
15 Thur	11.24	8.2	23.57	8.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR THE WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT!



The new development at Barry Waterfront. The interior dock area and 'mole', which might one day host a marina, is owned by Associated British Ports.

A £230 million scheme to regenerate Barry Waterfront has been given full planning approval by the Vale Council.

Among the features of the development will be a £5 million road to the Island and a new primary school. Plans for the development, known as the Quays, were given the go-ahead after a complex 'Section 106' agreement was concluded between the council's planning offi-

by TIM CHAPMAN

cers and the consortium of developers behind the project.

The final 'Section 106' agreement will see the developers providing a minimum of 15 per cent affordable homes, and investing a further £8m to include local road improvements, a new primary school, sustainable transport measures, improvements to local community facilities, including water sports and public open space.

The scheme itself will also deliver a new

£5m link road from Barry town to Barry Island, a waterfront district centre featuring cafés and restaurants, a hotel, a supermarket and up to 2,000 new homes.

The Quays marks the final phase in the large-scale regeneration of the Waterfront and aims to create a sustainable mixed-use community focused around the water, with new parks and children's play areas, promenades and public spaces to help connect the existing waterside, Island and town communities.

The plans were initially put forward in August 2009 by a consortium of developers made up of Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd, Persimmon Homes and BDW Trading (Barratt South Wales).

A resolution to grant planning permission was unanimously agreed in July last year by the Vale Council's planning committee subject to completing the Section 106 agreement.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Consortium spokesman, Richard Keogh, said: "The consortium has been working closely with the council to agree a Section 106 ever since a resolution to grant planning permission was given last July.

"We are pleased, then, that we are now in a position to progress the scheme to the next stage and bring its significant benefits a step closer.

"This is a massive investment in Barry,

with wide-ranging benefits for the town and its surrounding areas."

Mr Keogh said there would be huge economic benefits to the scheme.

"Not only will the scheme help regenerate derelict land, but it will also create jobs, drive economic growth and hopefully encourage further investment in the area.

"Whenever you are dealing with a project on this scale and complexity, it takes time to get right, but this is yet another important step along the way.

"We will continue to work with the council and other stakeholder parties to agree detail aspects of the scheme, hopefully taking us closer to a start on site this summer."

The final piece in the jigsaw might be a marina, but for that to go ahead there would have to be an agreement and commitment involving Associated British Ports, the Vale Council, the consortium, the Vale Council and the Welsh Government.

Penarth craft fair

A craft fair is to be held in the Paget Rooms, Penarth, on April 1 (at 11am-3pm).

More than 30 craft stalls are expected. Admission is free and part of any money raised from tea and coffee sales will go to Tenovus.

For more details, visit www.tidalream-creations.co.uk

'Sadness' that High Street events could become thing of the past...

RIGHT: Tony Hopkins at one of High Street's popular events, with son Ryan (on the left) and nephew Daniel.



we are to keep going. "The local MP, Alun Cairns and the Vale AM, Jane Hutt, have also been in touch to see if they can help."

Traditionally, on Easter Saturday a 'Bonnet Parade' is held in High Street, with prizes for the children with the most extravagant headwear.

Dozens of youngsters regularly take part.

Marching along the pavements, they parade up and down the length of the street, and no road closure is required.

However, the current position in High Street is that there is no chairman of the traders' association, so events like the Bonnet Parade still hang in the balance.

The GEM understands that at some stage, businesses may band together to run smaller scale events.

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

PEOPLE in Barry were shocked by The GEM's story on February 16 - 'High Street showcase events hit by red tape' - and have expressed their sadness to the former chairman of the traders.

Tony Hopkins had explained that the popular entertainment days, which were such a huge

feature of the area at Christmas and Easter, look as if they could become a thing of the past.

He said that health and safety bureaucracy was slowly strangling the organisation of events.

The final straw was last Christmas when, on

top of the normal arrangements, insurance cover and a request for road closures, a 21-point health and safety risk assessment and traffic management plan had to be filled out.

Tony, who runs the family business Vic Hopkins & Son, told The GEM: "We've had a great response from our customers to the story.

"People have been popping into the shop to say how sad it will be if everything stops and how angry they are with rules and regulations."

There is a slight glimmer of hope, though.

Tony revealed: "A health and safety company has been in touch and offered to sort out all of the paperwork if

Residents' protest over pot holes

RESIDENTS living near Barry Police Station have complained about pot holes in the road, and that is being used as a short cut by motorists.

They are calling on the Vale Council to make improvements, as well as reinstating 'no access' to this road.

Coun Richard Bertin and local campaigner Jamie Davis have taken up their concerns and are also calling for action.

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Lengths for Life to raise much-needed funds

HAVING first opened its doors to patients in October 2010, the £1.5 million Breast Centre based at Llandough Hospital is launching a new £1m charity initiative to enable staff to move patient care to the next level with completion being neared on the project.

Lengths for life (L4L) is an initiative involving swimming that hopes to raise the cash to enable the latest equipment to be installed in the centre as well as a teacher training centre being set up.

The initial idea was to encourage people of all ages to take part in a sponsored swim at their local swimming pool, however the amount of people who said they

would have loved to have taken part was overwhelming.

This year, the aim is to make Lengths for Life bigger and better than last year but in order for us to do this we feel we need to make significant changes to the original idea or incorporate those who aren't big on swimming.

It was decided to encourage people of all ages and all abilities to take part in sponsored sporting events or challenges of their choice.

This could include a sponsored run, swim, horse-ride, Zumba class or mountain hike. The list is endless.

Further information can be obtained by calling the fundraising team on 07790 319001, or by emailing sarah.edwards@lengthsforlife.co.uk.

SE

CANCER RESEARCH TO BENEFIT AS... Matt skydives for his mum, and in memory of Karen



ABOVE:
Matt prepares for the big jump.



ABOVE: In the plane, moments before the skydive,
and BELOW, Matt makes his jump.



jump took place on Saturday, February 25, at the UK Skydive Centre at Dunkswell Airfield near Honiton, Devon. It proved a huge success.

Lynette said: "Matt is only 20, and I am incredibly proud of him for undertaking this jump and for his continued support."

"So far, he has raised over £3,000 and more donations have been pledged; his original fundraising target was £1,500."

Matt, aged 20, said: "The skydive went really well, although I had to wait over seven hours for the weather to improve!"

The family want to thank all their friends and colleagues for all the messages of support over the last few weeks.

You can still sponsor Matthew in aid of Cancer Research.

Please visit the following site <http://www.bmy-charity.com/MattNash>. Any contribution however large or small will be very much appreciated.

One in every nine women in the UK will develop breast cancer at some point in their lives – more than 45,000 cases are diagnosed each year.

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

THE wife and stepson of the former Executive Officer of Barry Town Council, Derek Wolfe, have reacted with immense courage to a recent family crisis.

For many years, Derek served the people of Barry, but has recently been appointed as Marlborough's town clerk, following a brief spell as the council's acting town clerk.

He explained that the family were hit by the bad news just after the New Year.

"On January 17, my wife Lynette was diagnosed with breast cancer. As you can imagine, this came as a huge, nasty shock to the whole family, but her response to the news of this potentially life-threatening condition was incredibly positive."

"Lynette's son Matthew, my stepson, also responded very positively by making the decision to undertake a tandem skydive from 15,000 feet, to

raise funds for the UK charity Cancer Research.

"His aim was to raise as much money as possible to help fund continuing research in this country, so that maybe in the future, the lives of all women contracting this dreadful disease can be saved."

"Matt was also inspired to do the jump because his boss, Karen, died earlier this year as a result of a rare complication associated with breast cancer, having been in remission."

Fortunately, in the last few days Lynette has received cautiously optimistic news.

She explained: "I had surgery on February 17 and a post-operative check-up."

"The biopsy showed there was no evidence of any spread, either in the breast or lymph nodes, which was the best possible outcome."

"I can now get on with the next stage, which is chemotherapy and radiotherapy."

Just over a week after Lynette's surgery, Matt's

Power station in local 'meet the people' exercise

by PHILIP IRWIN

NOx emissions by 90 per cent."

The GEM visited the roadshow on Friday in St Athan. The previous day it had been in Rhosee and it was in the Llantwit Major, on Saturday.

Mark Picton said that members of the public who had called in had been interested, and discussions had been cordial.

If the project is granted planning permission by the Vale Council, the next step is for it to be presented to the board of Aberthaw's German parent company, in March 2013.

Once the £200 million scheme gets the green light from Germany, construction is likely to start in 2015, and should be completed in 2017.

Mark Picton said that the Selective Catalytic Reduction process worked like a catalytic converter in a car, and meant that the NOx compounds would be burnt, with nitrogen and water the by-products.

He said that introducing the SCR was crucial to keeping the plant operating at full capacity through till 2025. If it failed to meet the new EU emissions targets, it could be downgraded and might run at a lower

capacity. He emphasised the local employment aspects of Aberthaw – not just the employees and contractors who work there, but also the suppliers in south Wales who service the plant.

He said: "At least 50 per cent of our coal comes from south Wales, from Merthyr or the Neath valleys. Also, we are taking as much biomass wood fuel as we can – again from within a radius of 70 miles of the plant."

He added that at the moment, the biomass content was 1.5 per cent, but said that the station would like to take more.

• The issue of NOx gases has been the subject of letters in The GEM in recent weeks, with residents complaining of an "orange cloud" coming from the plant.

Mr Picton is adamant that the cloud is tested regularly and is within Environment Agency safe limits.

The power station insists that the cloud is only noticed under certain atmospheric conditions, when the sun is at the right angle to make it appear orange.

It is true that The GEM has only ever received reports of the orange cloud from people in the Rhosee or Barry area, suggesting that the angle of the sun may be a factor.

CCTV arrests

TEN people have been arrested in the Vale as a result of CCTV monitoring, including three concerning drugs offences.

CCTV operators contacted the police on 39 occasions during the week ending March 4. On March 1, one person was arrested involving an assault in Broad Street, Barry. Another was arrested for alleged vehicle interference in Barry Road and another person was arrested in Broad Street over the theft of a motorcycle from Queen Street and being drunk in charge of a vehicle.

One person was arrested for an alleged assault in Holton Road and another for the same offence on Ramsey Road, Barry, on March 3, and another was arrested for theft in Holton Road.

Three people were arrested in Island Road, Barry, concerning possession of class A drugs on March 4, while a man was arrested regarding an assault in a separate incident in Boverton Road, Llantwit Major.

On February 28, one person was given a street caution in Holton Road involving possession of cannabis.



ABOVE:
The former Executive Officer of Barry Town Council, Derek Wolfe, and his wife Lynette.

40th birthday jazz concert

DINAS POWYS Voluntary Concern is celebrating 40 years this year with a varied programme of events.

It coordinates volunteers to help those who need it in the community, mostly elderly and disabled.

A specially adapted minibus takes members to social events and on shopping trips.

The first event is on March 17 in the Parish

Hall at 7.30pm – an evening of jazz by Cardiff and the Vale Music Services Youth Jazz Orchestra (CYJO).

The band is made up of talented youngsters of grade five and above, under the leadership of Dave Miller.

Tickets £6, available from the Post Offices in Dinas Powys, in the Square and at the Murch, from the Parish Hall and the DPVC Resource Centre (02920 513700).

£250,000 refit for St Paul's

The Vale Council has agreed to provide £250,000 to refurbish St Paul's Church in Penarth, enabling it to once again become home to Penarth Amateur Boxing Club and Penarth Gymnastics Club.

St Paul's Church has been vacant since February 2011 when the building was closed due

to safety concerns.

Vale Council Leader Coun Gordon Kemp said: "The Vale Council are proud to allocate the necessary funds to redevelop St Paul's Church, and re-establish the facility for the local community."

"This facility will provide a secure future for both the gymnastics and boxing clubs, and provide a welcome recreational facility for young people in the Vale."



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Offer valid until 16th April, 2012. Available every day except Saturday after 5.00pm. Discount applies to food from the à la carte menu and daily specials only and excludes all other promotions and discounts. Set menu's and special events (Mother's Day, Easter & 3rd April). One voucher per table, max six diners. Vouchers that have been defaced or altered will not be accepted. Only valid at Loch Fyne, Cowbridge.

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*Terms and conditions: Free glass of Prosecco for all adults (over 18) diners after 6pm when dining from the set menu on 18th March only.

People believe new era is on its way

Island's visitors are excited by the new Pleasure Park plans

ON Friday, March 2, Barry Island was bathed in sunshine and people enjoying the mild weather were digesting the news that councillors had backed outline plans for an indoor entertainment and residential development on the Pleasure Park site.

It seemed an ideal moment to gauge opinion on the main topic of conversation on the Island.

The GEM spoke to a number of people enjoying the fine weather, and wanted to know: would they miss the outdoor rides in the park? And would they welcome the mixed development of flats, a nursing home, a cinema and restaurants?

David Vick, who lives in London, but whose father Derek was from Barry, was spending the afternoon on the Island with his step-mother, Maureen Vick.

David said: "I came down to watch the Wales v Costa Rica match and fancied a day down here, too."

"I've had a good wander round and it's been nice to see the developments on the Island."

"When I was a kid, I remember going on the rides at the funfair, but times do change."

"It's a good idea to have restaurants and a cinema, so there is somewhere for people to go when the weather is not so good."

"The financial climate has changed in recent years and people are not travelling abroad

by TIM CHAPMAN



ABOVE:
Pam Allinson and Nancy Jones.



ABOVE:
David and Maureen Vick.

as much so the Island might benefit.

"There will also be an all year round attraction for the people of Barry."

Maureen, a resident of Cardiff, said: "The plans sound like a good idea. It's time things were updated."

Friends Pam Allinson and Nancy Jones, both from Barry, were soaking up the sun on the Promenade.

Pam said: "I'm particularly in favour of there being a cinema – it's four years since we had one in the town."

"Do we need an

entertainment complex? Absolutely!"

"I can remember the fair in its heyday and the times when you couldn't see the beach for towels. To modernise the outdoor Pleasure Park would be a massive investment."

Pam and Nancy were anxious that a good proportion of any new development was for leisure and entertainment, and that it wasn't overloaded by the residential aspect.

Nancy explained: "Every spare space in Barry seems to go to

housing. I don't know whether we look far enough ahead at how everything goes together."

"At the moment, we have a hotel going up at the Waterfront, but what is the view going to be, housing?"

Nancy insisted that the road and rail infrastructure had to be worked out properly to ensure people were able to visit the Island without traffic congestion.

Tom Curtis and his friend Sylvia Goddard said they thought it was exciting that there might be a new era of entertainment on the Island.

Tom, from Cardiff, said: "When I was young, the Island was packed in the summer because more people had their holidays in Britain more than abroad."

"Then foreign travel damaged the British holiday market."

"If they have a cinema and restaurants, it should draw people to the Island all year round."

Sylvia, from Newport, said: "Barry Island should be making more of what it has."

"I hope it can find investment, not just for something at the Pleasure Park, but for other areas of the Island too."

"If Barry is regarded as a modern resort, even more people will come."

Everybody who spoke to The GEM was enthused by the idea of an indoor entertainment complex.

The next step will be for developers to bring forward detailed plans for Vale councillors to consider.



Barry Island residents attended a demonstration at Maslin Park on March 3. They believe it is time the park was upgraded with new facilities.

'Maslin Park forgotten' claim local residents

by TIM CHAPMAN

A Barry Island resident claims that Maslin Park is the poor neighbour, when it comes to refurbishing parks in the town.

On March 3, a group of local residents held a demonstration to voice their frustration at the state of the park.

Barrie V. Evans told The GEM: "Island residents feel the council has neglected Maslin Park."

"People are concerned about the age and condition of the play equipment and sports facilities."

"Some of the equipment hasn't had a lick of paint for 20 years and neither have the railings."

"The 'play train' in the children's park is rotting. In the shower rooms, the hot water is not constant."

"There are new facilities in a number of parks in Barry, but we feel we have been left in the cold."

A number of parks in Barry, such as Iolo Park and Bassett Park, have had upgrades, thanks to regeneration funds.

Mr Evans, who is standing as an independent in the Vale Council elections in May, said his fear was that if the park fell into a state of decay, it could be a target for housing developers.

Island resident and sports fanatic, Andrew Heffernan, claimed the Adizone would have fitted in well in Maslin

Park. They spent £250,000 on the new Adizone facility but it is away from the residential side of Barry Island.

"It would have fitted into Maslin Park quite nicely."

Phil Beaman of the Vale parks department said the council would be happy to work with a local group to improve things.

He explained: "The council maintains 86 play areas throughout the Vale."

"Budgets are tight and in the ideal world, a regular programme of painting and replacement would be the best option."

"Due to budgetary constraints and the many and varied demands on the parks' budgets, this is not possible."

Mr Beaman did emphasise: "The equipment is safe to use and is regularly checked."

"The sports facilities at the site meet the standards required by the local league and the problem with the showers was recently resolved by the replacement of the main water supply to the pavilion."

Mr Beaman also pointed out that following an appeal from Island youngsters in The GEM for a local rugby provision, the council had swung into action.

"As readers may be aware, I recently liaised with the young people of the community and erected a set of rugby

'We're the poor neighbours when it comes to parks'

"The park was considered for the Adizone, but it was felt that its current position would attract more users and is only 300 metres away from the park – no distance for keen fitness fanatics."

Mr Beaman added: "If the Barry Island community wish to develop a positive user group to work with the parks and grounds maintenance division to improve the park, I would be more than happy to facilitate this."

"I can categorically inform readers that there are no plans or intention to build houses upon Maslin Park."

OUTLINES PASSED

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Paul Sutton told The GEM: "Our main concern is how the allocation of space has gone down for a cinema complex – the 2008 plans show 2,750 square metres, the 2011 outline plans show 1,672 square metres."

"The indoor leisure allocation in 2008 was 6,020 square metres, the outline plans are now for 2,788 square metres."

"The 2008 plans showed a total of six screens, but if there is less space how many screens will there be? We are anxious that an operator should not be put off because they would have a smaller area to operate in."

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'Free facility is an incentive'

AS a resident of Barry Island, I realise I have much to be thankful for... I now have another thing – the Adizone

As a regular user of the excellent facility, I would like to thank everyone who had anything to do with bringing it to Barry Island; well done.

This free facility, I am sure, will provide locals with a much-needed exercise incentive, as do similar facilities throughout Europe.

Clive Poole,
Barry Island

Kidsmarkets Family Sale

Saturday, 10th March 2.00 - 3.30pm

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NEWS FROM THE BARRY MEN'S FORUM

How the Merthyr Riots changed the working man

OUR last speaker, Mr Phil Knight, emphasised the date of 1831 to the forum. This was the year that the whole industrial scene in the United Kingdom changed for good.

It started in Merthyr Tydfil. In varying degrees and up to the present time there would be a clear division between industrial owners and the workers they

employed in that fateful year.

In 1700 the town itself was a mere hamlet of seven hundred people, but by the 1750s the population had hugely increased since the area had been blessed with those materials needed to stoke the Industrial Revolution – namely coal, iron and lime.

In the middle of the 18th Century, John Guest had opened his famous iron works and the demand for his products was huge and in

large part caused by the Seven-Year War against the French.

This is seen today by some historians as the First World War, since it was fought over such a huge area of the earth's surface.

Huge technical developments were made in the town, and in the USA the infant steel industry copied them and called these advances the 'Welsh Method.'

All products had to be floated down on barges to Cardiff for shipping around the world and our speaker pointed out that it was the town of Merthyr Tydfil, with its technical mastery, that really created the city of

Cardiff. By 1830, the town's population of 30,000 meant it was the largest in Wales, but it suffered an appalling housing problem. A huge number of ramshackle homes had been built for the workers and huge numbers of them were paid by tokens for their often-fourteen-hours of daily toil.

These had to be redeemed in shops for essential goods set up for the purpose by the factory owners. The whole system was one of pure exploitation and debts, naturally incurred by a hungry populace, were dealt with in a local court known as the Court of Requests that came to be detested.

Pressure for change was certainly felt in Merthyr where resentment seethed and finally came to the boil in 1831 when 2,000 workers joined colleagues from Monmouth and organised a rally of protest. This marked a turning point as the workers' sense of power increased.

For the first time in Britain the red flag was seen and magistrates felt it imperative to read the Riot Act. Rioters refused to disperse and as the crowd surged forward Highland troops opened fire on them; 22 people were killed immediately and many more injured.

For the first time, two separate and opposed classes emerged in Britain – the bosses and the workers.

At our meeting today, March 8, the speaker will be Michael Ball, whose subject is 'Derbyshire Mining Family in South Wales'. Meetings are held every Thursday at 10.30am in the hall of the United Reformed Church, Barry. New members welcome. Call 02920 594881.

MAC
TANNER

COMMUNITY NEWS

LLANBETHERY & LLANCARFAN
Your community correspondents are
Sam & Patsie Smith on
(01446) 751448

Lent lunches

THE Lent lunches are being held again this year, starting in March, and people in Llanccarfan will (if they wish) be given a tour/explanation of the paintings in the church.

This year, the lunches are on Thursdays, with the dates as follows: March 15 – Penmark ladies in their church hall; March 22 – Llantrithyd ladies, lunch to be held in Llanccarfan Village Hall; March 29 – Llanccarfan ladies, lunch to be held in Llanccarfan Village Hall.

As usual, they will be held from 12 noon-2pm, and all proceeds will go to charity. There are no tickets, with payment at the door.

Evening was a great success

I JUST wanted to say thank you so much for promoting in The GEM, the Trinity Church nostalgic games held on Saturday, February 25.

The evening was a great success with more than £180 being raised. Everyone had a lovely time playing traditional old-fashioned games and looking at the interest table full of vintage toys and memorabilia.

Grateful thanks to all who helped and attended, making it such a lovely evening.

Ceri-Lou Newman

Rotarians celebrate a polio battle landmark



MEMBERS of Barry Rotary Club, along with Rotarians across the world, are cautiously celebrating a major milestone in global efforts to eradicate polio.

The last reported case was a two-year-old girl in

west Bengal, but it will be a further two years of successful tests before the country is declared polio-free.

This milestone is seen as a testament to the determination of Rotary members worldwide, especially the 116,000-plus Rotarians of India, to eradicate the infectious disease through the

mass immunisation of children, a goal Rotary took on 27 years ago.

If you would like to know more about Rotary, Thanks for Life or End Polio Now, contact your local Rotary Club in Barry and president Dave Ball (01446 733971) or secretary Carl Kerr (01446 736641) will give details.

IN BRIEF

DIABETES UK Cymru's Vale Voluntary Group meets on Tuesday, March 20, in the board room of Llandough Hospital at 7.30pm, when speaker Dr Julia Platts, consultant diabetologist, will give an update on diabetes.

New members welcome. Call 01446 746639 for further information.

Spring fair

AGE Concern Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan is holding a spring fair on Monday, April 2 between 10am and 12 noon at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, with cakes, crafts, pickles.

The Barry Stitch and Bitch group meets in the Senior Health Shop every Monday morning between

10am and 12 noon. All welcome.

Mayor's ball

THE public are being urged to support the annual charity ball being held by Coun Bronwen Brooks, Mayor of Barry, on Friday, April 13 at Barry Memorial Hall.

Tickets are £25 each and guests will be treated to a four-course meal, a disco, a raffle and a whole host of prizes, ranging from free vouchers to local restaurants to signed sports memorabilia.

The highlight of the evening will be the entertainment which will be provided by well-known soul band 'Madassa'.

To book tickets, or for more information, telephone Julie Hurd on 01446 704921.



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Barry Island Primary School St David's Day celebrations



PICTURED here are children from early years celebrating St David's Day at Barry Island primary school..

READER'S LETTER

Council opted for 'PR exercise'

I'M SURE the Leader of the Council, Gordon Kemp, didn't intend to mislead GEM readers when he claimed plans for restoring the paddling pool at Friars Point were withdrawn because "the costs of the scheme increased so substantially that its promoters concluded that it had become unviable".

As the council leadership knows, that is not the case.

The not-for-profit group set up by residents to help regenerate the Island pulled out of the scheme when it became clear the council were not serious about working in partnership with the community.

Just over a month ago, the Vale Council's director of economic development claimed the pool could go ahead

if only unpaid volunteers could find 'match-funding'. The council itself, it seemed, would not identify funding.

And yet they have quickly found £239,000 to fund an outdoor gym promoting the multinational corporation Adidas, without a penny of 'match-funding'.

Surely elected local authorities exist to serve the community? Yet ours has strung along a group of volunteers, and opted instead to pay for a scheme which is in effect a giant PR exercise for a global brand.

If the leader of the council is sincere in supporting the paddling pool 'in principle', what will he now do to make it happen? Lee Waters Barry

Charity climb
THE 6th Dinas Powys Guides will attempt to climb the equivalent height of Mount Snowdon.

The sponsored event will take place on March 17 at the University of Glamorgan climbing wall. The Guides are hoping to raise £500 for the unit helper to obtain his climbing qualification and help fund senior section activities.

MIND in the Vale signs new employers' charter

MIND in the Vale has signed the Charter for employers who are positive about mental health.

Vale AM Jane Hutt, met Caroline Chapman, the MIND in the Vale chief executive officer, to learn more about their work to raise awareness with employers about the mental

health needs of their employees.

The mental health charity provides three open access mental health resource centres in Barry, Penarth and Llantwit Major, as well as the 'Travellers in Mind' cafe at Barry Station and catering service, providing innovative services, training,

volunteering opportunities and support for people who use their services.

Ms Hutt congratulated MIND in the Vale on their work and for leading the way as an employer in the Vale. She urged employers to sign up to the Charter as 'Mindful employers'.



ABOVE: Jane Hutt AM and Caroline Chapman at the Ty Newydd Resource Centre in Barry with the Charter for Employers.

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Inquiry blow to anti-fracking campaign

CAMPAIGNERS against 'fracking in the Vale' have been dealt a blow - after Welsh Water announced that it is withdrawing from a public inquiry scheduled for May.

The inquiry is taking place after the Vale Council's planning committee refused Coastal Oil and Gas Ltd permission in 2011 to perform an exploratory drilling operation at Llandow.

That exploratory drilling would determine whether there was the potential to extract commercial quantities of natural gas.

Vale MP Alun Cairns said he was dismayed by Welsh Water's announcement and has written to Welsh Water to appeal to them to justify their decision to turn down the opportunity to appear at the Welsh Government Planning Inspector inquiry, due to be held later this year in May.

Mr Cairns said that the council's technical evidence was based on concerns expressed by Welsh

Water that test drilling may pose a risk of contamination of its reserve groundwater sites.

Without Welsh Water's presence at the public inquiry, council planners will be left with no technical support.

Mr Cairns told The GEM: "I have written to the managing director of Welsh Water to ask him to justify their decision not to attend the public inquiry."

"I believe that Welsh Water should be making sure that they are representing their customers from across the Vale. Many of their customers are rightly very concerned about the effects of the exploration process for shale gas, and the potential 'fracking' procedure for its extraction if the gas is found."

"Hundreds of constituents and businesses across the Vale have contacted me to express their serious reservations about the whole process."

"It's disappointing that a company such as Welsh Water, which has the technical and specialist knowledge to help us all

understand the implications and issues, will not now be providing information and independent evidence at the public inquiry."

A spokeswoman for Welsh Water said:

"We are not a statutory consultee on this planning issue, but it is essential that we ensure the interests of our customers are protected."

"Although most of our supplies are from surface sources, such as reservoirs, some is extracted from groundwater. We have, therefore, been holding detailed discus-

sions directly with the company about the technology and processes to be used."

"These discussions are ongoing and we are seeking assurances on the very small risk of drilling fluid contaminating our reserve groundwater site in the vicinity."

"We have not stated that we would attend the inquiry and so have not changed our position over this."

"We are happy to continue liaising with council officers regarding the issue of fracking."

'Save the parking spaces' - residents' call

A COWBRIDGE resident is urging local people to use the Local Development Plan (LDP) consultation period to argue the case for better parking in the town.

Chris Pearce believes that the proposal to build homes on the Cattle Market site will result in the loss of around 200 parking spaces.

He told The GEM: "There is no alternative replacement parking area proposed in the LDP, and Cowbridge depends for its continued vitality on this parking facility."

Alun John, the chair-

man of the chamber of trade, told The GEM that the chamber was concerned about parking, and was preparing a submission of its own to the LDP.

Chris Pearce said: "I urge local residents to make their views known. A good idea would be to visit this Saturday's LDP exhibition at Cowbridge Town Hall, and collect a comments form."

LDP exhibitions take place this Saturday, March 10 (at 10am-1pm) and Tuesday, March 20 (2pm-7pm). Comments concerning the LDP must reach the Vale Council by April 2.



ABOVE: The budding chefs competing in the District Final of the Rotary Young Chef Competition.

Amelia a close second in Rotary Young Chef final

COWBRIDGE Comprehensive School pupil Amelia Glanville impressed the judges in the south Wales district final of the Rotary Young Chef Competition on February 25 and came a very close second.

Seven young chefs from South Wales met in the final, held in Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School in Barry.

Each participant had to plan and prepare a three-course meal for two people with ingredient costs that did not exceed £15. In just two hours, a wide range of delicious food was prepared and displayed complete with attractive table settings.

Judges Helen Groom, Sales and Marketing

Manager of The Maldron Hotel, Cardiff and Iain Inman, Executive Chef of The Parc Hotel, Cardiff, remarked: "The quality of the food prepared by all the contestants was to an extremely high standard and the selection of the winner was by no means an easy task."

Siriol Richards of Ysgol Tregib, who was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Llandeilo, won with a starter of smoked salmon parcels, main course of sun-blushed tomato and taragon-stuffed chicken breast and a dessert of chocolate brownie with orange and vanilla panacotta.

Amelia prepared a starter of smoked salmon pâté, followed by roasted chicken with fennel cheese wrapped in parma ham with a chocolate fondant for dessert.

Other competitors



Siriol Richards receives the winners shield from Rotary District Governor Mike Parry.

were Laura Bleehen of Cardiff High School, Menna Coombes of Porth Community School, Paulina Chruszcz of Abergillery Comprehensive School, Rebecca Peachment of Pembroke College and Teleri Haf Thomas of Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera.

Prizes were presented by Rotary District Governor Mike Parry.

Siriol now goes on to compete in the regional final in Monmouth Girls School on March 17, 2012.

Rotary International in Southern Wales would like to thank the judges and Bryn Hafren School.

GREEN DRINKS are being held at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge, on Tuesday, March 13, from 7.30pm.

This is an open and informal monthly get-together to chat about environmental issues and share information on how to live in a more sustainable way in our community. All are welcome.

Contact: Rob McGhee 07712 196150 or transitioncowbridge@googlemail.com

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Fundraising under way for sports pitch

RECENTLY, St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School had a positive inspection where both the ESTYN and Archdiocesan inspection teams were very impressed.

One of the recommendations following the inspection was to provide an all-weather outdoor sports pitch to improve the facilities available to our pupils.

In these austere times, school budgets are under substantial pressure and to cover the full cost of the pitch from the money the school receives is not possible.

The school has some money to go towards it - however, this alone is insufficient to pay all the costs.

Therefore, in order to meet the inspectors' recommendation, a fundraising year has been launched to try and provide this facility for all our pupils to use.

The event that kicked off the fundraising year was a Big Band evening featuring the 17-piece

Liberty Big Band who brought the super sounds of the 40s, the magic of Glenn Miller and the silky sounds of Sinatra to St Richard Gwyn.

This sell-out event was enjoyed by all; delicious hot food was served, a bar made available and dancing enjoyed by those who were brave enough to venture onto the dance floor!

Calls for an encore resounded around the school hall with everyone unwilling to leave and wishing the evening would continue further into the night.

The total raised so far is £4,614 - keep checking home page of St Richard Gwyn's website on www.strichardgwyn.co.uk to follow the increasing total.

Various events are being held throughout the year and opportunities for sponsorship are available - if anyone is interested in supporting the school or attending any of the events please contact the school on 01446 729250 or email info@strichardgwyn.co.uk.

CAROLINE ROBINSON

WHAT'S ON - IN BRIEF

Coffee morning

ALL SAINTS' Barry Mothers' Union thanks all who supported their coffee morning on Saturday, March 3 in All Saints' church hall, Park Road, Barry. The event raised £540 for Mothers' Union charities.

Valeways walks

SUNDAY, March 4 at 2.30pm, 'Castle Upon Alun', starting at St Brides Major Church (SS 894750).

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Bumper year ahead for local tourism...



ABOVE: Local people were flying the flag for the Vale of Glamorgan's tourism industry at a special event held at Dyffryn House and Gardens during Wales Tourism Week.

A BUMPER year for tourism in the Vale was forecast at a special event at Dyffryn House and Gardens on Friday, March 2, to mark Wales Tourism Week.

It was organised by the Vale Council's tourism department along with the Vale Marketing Group.

Thousands of visitors are expected to flock to the Vale for the National Eisteddfod, while the completion of the Wales Coast Path in May is likely to further boost the numbers.

The gathering of tourism professionals was keen to hear more in a presentation about the Wales Coast Path, which will soon be Wales' largest tourist attraction, spanning 870 miles.

Already one of the Vale's top tourism attractions, Dyffryn House at St Nicholas, will soon be managed by the National Trust, putting it on the radar of even more potential visitors. A project is also under way to fully restore parts of the house to their original splendour and open them to the public.

Horse riders are mistaken for mounted police!

POLICE in Barry have recently received calls from members of the public mistaking horse riders for police officers.

A police spokeswoman explained: "We received reports over the weekend, after two horse riders were seen wearing hi-visibility, reflective jackets with the word 'POLITE' on the back. "The jackets are in fact sold by an equine brand by the name of Equisafety.

"Police want to inform and reassure the



The sign says: 'POLITE SLOWDOWN', not 'POLICE SLOWDOWN'.

public that horse riders spotted wearing the clothing are not mounted officers."

Leo to cook for Wales!

A CARDIFF and Vale College student and aspiring chef, has beaten off competition from the length and breadth of Wales to make it to the finals of a prestigious UK-wide culinary contest at Westminster College on March 26.

Leo Hacker won the Welsh final of the FutureChef competition and will now go on to the UK finals in London.

The 16-year-old Pathways to Apprenticeships (PTA) chefs diploma programme student from Cardiff, had to produce a main course and

dessert with a set budget of £8 in one and a half hours.

Leo impressed the judges with his fish dish, featuring sustainable pollock, poached and skewered with lemon-grass, served on diced butternut squash with a white butter sauce and shallots.

It was accompanied by shredded curly kale, lardons of bacon, mini carrot balls and a sprinkling of pine nuts.

Dessert comprised a tartlet filled with crushed, fresh raspberries with a lemon curd style topping and Italian meringue.



ABOVE: Welsh winner Leo is set to compete in the UK finals in London.

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Fund Wales Air Ambulance – party call

A CALL has been made for The Wales Air Ambulance Service to get improved support from the Welsh Government, including direct funding.

It came from Welsh Conservatives after the service launched a fundraising campaign to upgrade one of its helicopters at a cost of £600,000 near Newtown.

The air ambulance has three helicopters covering Wales and its funding comes entirely from public donations.

Shadow Minister for Health, Darren Millar AM, said: "Our air ambulance service does an incredible job and doesn't get the credit it deserves."

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£1,120 donation for Dogs Trust



Jenny McGlyne makes her donation to the Dogs Trust.

LINDA FEAGEN at the Dogs Trust, Bridgend, was "very pleased" to receive a cheque for £1,120 from Jenny McGlyne, the ladies' immediate past captain of Cottrell Park Golf Club.

The Dogs Trust was chosen as the captain's charity for last year and the money was raised from various events supported by the members throughout the year.

Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D712.

● £2,000: 504852.
● The rollover, which now stands at £5,500, was not won this week.
● £10: 993509, 812394, 593258, 190089, 545858, 882971, 448924, 628372, 583804, 255923, 220146, 212018, 438711, 152025, 357756, 433955, 217655, 819120, 307084, 522625.

● £5: 297579, 557963, 658246, 295789, 889810, 891192, 951218, 424159, 132760, 226104, 779180, 335336, 735236, 504231, 550201, 109252, 415550, 672062.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information, please telephone 02920 672062.

Flying Vet's appeal dismissed in harassment of doctor case

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

VALE 'Flying Vet' Maurice Kirk has had his appeal against a conviction and jail sentence for harassing a leading forensic psychiatrist dismissed – after a two-day hearing at Cardiff Crown Court.

Judge Philip Hughes, who sat with two magistrates, said: "This appeal was without merit."

He ordered Mr Kirk, formerly of St Donats, currently residing in Brittany, to pay £650 costs.

Mr Kirk, 65, had been found guilty at Cardiff Magistrates' Court last December of harassing Dr Tegwyn Williams.

He was jailed for 18 weeks, made subject to a restraining order and directed to pay £1,500 costs.

Gareth Evans, for the prosecution, said that Mr Kirk's course of conduct against Dr Williams lasted over four months.

He said Mr Kirk contacted the Caswell Clinic, Bridgend, where Dr Williams was based, asking for an up-to-date image of him.

In Barry town centre, on Kirk's Land Rover, he had a poster of Dr Williams and printed underneath were the words: "Wanted, dead or alive."

He sent Dr Williams such a poster to his workplace and he also visited Cardiff Central Police Station and handed in a

similar poster.

The poster was depicted on Mr Kirk's website, and he also attempted to obtain Dr Williams's home address when he went to the Plough and Harrow pub in Monkash, the court was told.

Mr Evans said that Dr Williams had assessed Kirk psychiatrically and as a result, Kirk "adopted a negative view of that".

The court was told that Mr Kirk was arrested last September and said: "The sooner he is arrested for perverting the course of justice, the better."

At one stage as the case progressed, Kirk asked: "Are any of those involved members of a secret society?"

He was repeatedly asked to sit down in the dock and when he became disruptive, was ordered to be taken to the cells.

The case continued for an hour in his absence.

Mr Kirk later sent a message to the court saying he wished to return.

Dr Williams said that when he saw the posters, he became "uncomfortable and anxious."

He said it had had an effect on his practice, and he had also heard of threats which made him concerned for his family. "I have assessed many people for the criminal justice system and I have never before had such a problem," he said.

Mr Kirk, he said, wrongly believed medical records were being

withheld from him.

Dr Williams said that it was with reluctance that he went to the police.

A witness, social worker Amanda Watkins, said that she was in the Plough and Harrow pub with her partner when Mr Kirk came in and offered £1,000 for the doctor's address.

"People thought he must have been drinking. He then increased the offer to £3,000," she said.

Mr Kirk told the court that the trial had had an effect on his private life, and he had 15 medical witnesses to call.

"They will state there is nothing wrong with brain scans that have been taken of me," he said.

He asked the court to order that Dr Williams be arrested.

Said the Judge: "The court has no power to do that. This court is concerned with your appeal."

Said Kirk: "You are the 11th judge accepting that his psychiatric reports are true."

He claimed they contained false information. "My life is now short. I'm 66 next week," said Kirk.

In evidence, he said: "I've had 20 years of conspiracy in these courts. I've had 20 years of it."

He added: "This is not the British system, it is the Cardiff system."

The judge repeatedly asked him to give evidence concerning specific allegations against him.

Mr Kirk responded by saying: "On 35 occasions, I've been made to produce my driving licence and insurance."

He said he'd spent many months living with what he described as: "trumped-up charges".

He said the system involved "an inherent culture of deceit."

The false evidence of the doctor, he said, had blighted his life and he wanted permission to call 20 witnesses to show that Dr Williams was a "..... liar."

He said "Tegwyn Williams should be in the dock for harassing me. I won't let go of what's going on."

He accepted his course of conduct against the doctor, but claimed it was legitimate. He added that he had complained about the doctor to the National Health Service and the General Medical Council.

He said he made the cash offer in the pub for medical records, not the address of the doctor.

At one point, he threw his spectacles into the

well of court and shouted:

"What am I here for?"

He refused to return to the dock at one point, and was forcibly taken there by two security officers.

In his judgement, the judge said everybody had made allowances for Mr Kirk's "lengthy interjections from the dock".

He said Mr Kirk wrongly believed there was a conspiracy to deny

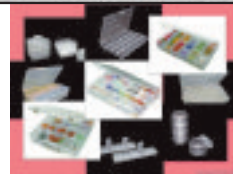
him a fair hearing.

"He feels at a disadvantage," said the judge. He added: "We accept the evidence of the prosecution witnesses and believe all the allegations proved."

He said the whole pattern of offending represented a course of harassment against Dr Williams.

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Those children who wish to pursue formal awards can take LAMDA exams, or 'Performance Arts Awards'. Students have recently performed at the Wales Millennium Centre, and Her Majesty's Theatre, London.

In April, they will be in concert at St David's Hall in aid of Breast Cancer Care Cymru.

READERS' LETTERS EXTRA

Sad demise of the preservation group

IT was with great sadness that I learnt from our chairman that the Barry Preservation and Civic Trust Society was having to wind up, owing to the advancing age of most members and a lack of younger recruits.

I have been a member since 1977 when the society was in a conflict to save the thatched cottages in Old Village, Roath.

The society, over the years, has taken on the local authorities on many controversial issues, including some

concerning the turning of the docks into the Waterfront e.g. the steps to Barry Island.

My run has been safeguarding Porthkerry Country Park which seems to be always a worry as it could so easily be exploited.

Back in 1977, a very vociferous voice was that of Colin Roberts who issued us, the initial seven members of the committee, with badges with FPCP on them which stood for Friends of Porthkerry Country Park.

We backed the Town Hall and Central Park issue and at this time of ending the society's existence, we are in dis-

cussion with the authorities and others, over the very dangerous hole in the bridge over the railway on Ship Hill, which leads from the parade up to St Nicholas Road at its narrowest part.

Sadly, at this time, it is still ongoing and can be a nightmare when two vehicles pass at the narrowest part.

Many thanks to all the chairmen and chairladies who have led us on many a mission with very often a successful outcome.

Mr D E Coombes
Herridge,
Barry.

Question of distance?

IRECENTLY read a copy of one of the Illtyd ward newsletters distributed by councillors Hampton, Charles and Williams in Barry.

It wasn't the most informative paper I've read, but it was fascinating to see that it makes absolutely no reference to the Conservative party whatsoever.

Are they distancing themselves from the party running this council and from the likes of Gordon Kemp and David Cameron?

Are they embarrassed by the actions of their party, or are they disassociating themselves from the decision to build houses on the green fields around Waycock Cross?

Perhaps they want to give the impression that they intend to stand as Independents in the May elections?

James Osborne, Barry,
(FocusBARRY supporter)

ISLAND ACCESS CONCERN

RECENTLY, I have had several conversations with Barry Island residents who are concerned about road access to Barry Island, especially as the docks development is apparently progressing.

As we all know, a fine weekend brings a lot of extra traffic to Barry Island, but the problems caused to residents of the Island seem to have increased each year – so I was surprised when I read that the planning application for the pleasure park redevelopment envisages no traffic problems.

Apparently, the traffic survey used was under-

taken in 2009, and at that time it was still possible for the exit via ABP land to be made available when necessary.

This route now appears to be blocked, so there is now only one access road to Barry Island. Added to that, the population of the island has grown considerably over recent years.

It is great to see Barry Island attracting visitors again, but with Easter a few weeks away all the residents know what a nice day will do to traffic volumes and how difficult access to their homes will be.

I think that the planning committee should at least base their decision on up to date evidence of the traffic volumes, before assuming that there will be no serious impact on traffic queuing.

The ideal solution is, of course, the long-promised new road, but I understand that is at least 10 years away – as suggested in the agreed planning application and the Local Development Plan.

Julie Aviet-Frassinelli,
Barry.
(Labour candidate for Baruc ward)

'Hold on to facilities'

FOLLOWING the actions and behaviour in recent months of Brynhill Golf Club and Redrow homes, I am concerned at Redrow's 'no problem' attitude toward appealing against the LDP draft.

After attending an exhibition at Brynhill's clubhouse, it seems after talking to representatives of both of the above, that the LDP is just a small obstacle, that was no problem to change or get around.

Everyone I've spoken to is in full support of the Vale of Glamorgan's current LDP draft, but if it was altered to accom-

modate any developer or likeminded establishments, to carry on regardless and build on designated green land just because of large amounts of cash, there would be no need to have a LDP – not at least for the reasons it was initially put in place for.

So I strongly urge the Vale of Glamorgan planning department to take into account the mood and thoughts of the Barry population; traffic congestion, local wildlife, drainage problems compounded, loss of recreation areas etc.

Let's, at least, try to get our lovely town of Barry back on track and hold on to these excellent facilities that we still have left.

(Name and address supplied)

Next step, access for the disabled?

AS I approach the second half of my 60s, I am increasingly drawn to rail rather than road travel, and one line I use, at least twice per week, is the Vale line from Barry to Bridgend and back.

It's a beautiful 30-minute ride, with sea views alternating with the wonderful Vale of Glamorgan countryside.

There are several unique features to this 20-mile line, not least the 16-arch masonry viaduct above Porthkerry Park with its fantastic view from the train.

It is 110ft high and 374 yards in length, standing between tunnels of 73 yards and 545 yards.

How many passengers realise that the viaduct, after construction, encountered settlement problems so that a 20mph speed limit, plus the employment of watchmen on a continuous basis, was ordered by Lt Colonel Yorke of the Railway Inspectorate in 1897?

He had grave misgivings about the viaduct and only one month after minerals and passenger traffic started on the line (December 1897) in January 1898, one of the piers began to sink

which caused immediate closure until 1900.

A subsequent report made Col Yorke incandescent because it revealed he had been misled during his inspection.

The trial bores had implied the foundations were on rock formations, whereas in fact several piers rested on clay.

Quickly, a northerly 'shoo-fly' diversion was used and as late as the 1960s, one farmer was finding fishplates from the site of the diversion while ploughing. (See: *A Regional History of the Railways of GB; Volume 12; South Wales – DSM Barrie*).

The restoration of passenger traffic serving Rhosce, Llantwit Major and Bridgend has been a great boon, not least to commuters, shoppers and Bridgend College, which draws a significant number of students from all areas along the line, which would not have been possible until a few years ago.

Now, if only there was disabled access, and easier passenger access at Barry Station in place of the footbridge and/or having to travel Barry Island to wait for the train to return, to alight on the platform, giving access out of the station and onto Broad Street, Barry.

Christopher Short,
Barry.

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The GEM is proud to be an official partner of the 2012 National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan
Mae'r GEM yn falch o fod yn un o bartneriaid swyddogol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, 2012

Tickets now on sale for the (Vale's) Eisteddfod!

TICKETS for the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod have gone on sale on the Eisteddfod website and via the ticketline - 0845 4090 800. For the first time, people can choose their seat through the online system.

Eisteddfod organiser, Hywel Wyn Edwards, said: "Eisteddfod tickets went on sale on March 1

and the concert line-ups this year have proved popular immediately, with the Only Men Aloud concert on the opening night (August 3) and the Eisteddfod Choir concert on August 4, featuring the British premiere of Karl Jenkins' new work *Bards of Wales* selling particularly well.

"This is also the first chance to buy field admission for the day, or 'Maes' tickets, and these are available at a reduced rate until July 1. The

three days for the price of two offer is also available, as is the season ticket for this year's festival, so there's plenty of bargains available for Eisteddfodwyr of all ages."

The evening concert programme this year features a wealth of local talent from the Vale of Glamorgan, including opera singer Rebecca Evans from Penarth, who will be performing with the Eisteddfod Choir on Saturday, August 4.

The Monday night concert celebrating Welsh folk singer, Dafydd Iwan, will feature local singers Miriam and Greta Isaac from Cowbridge, and Côr Heol y March, a choir which includes children from across the Vale.

The concert on Thursday, August 9, will be a celebration of one of Wales's best-loved and versatile entertainers, Caryl Parry Jones. Although originally from north Wales, Caryl is now proud to call the Vale home having been a local resident for many years.

Eisteddfod staff and volunteers have also been busy promoting the Eisteddfod across the Vale over the last few

days with Dilys, the bright red camper van that will be used to promote the Eisteddfod in the area.

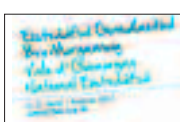
According to Hywel Wyn Edwards: "It is extremely important for us to get the message across that the Eisteddfod will be coming to the area and that we can offer something for all the family as well as letting local people know about the best deals available to those wishing to attend"

"Last week, we visited Barry, Penarth, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major and were encouraged by the response we received. Many thanks to all those who came out to meet us."

For further details about ticket offers and the evening concert programme contact the ticket office on: **0845 40 90 400**; or visit the Eisteddfod web site at www.eisteddfod.org.uk.

Learn Welsh with the Eisteddfod

LEARN a Welsh phrase a week! For the next five months, the Eisteddfod will be running a 'Hwyl is fun' campaign in conjunction with Bro Radio to help



you learn a Welsh phrase every week. A phonetic transcription will help you visualise the sound.

This week's phrase is - **'Dwi eisiau dysgu Cymraeg'** (Dwee ish-eh duss-gee Come-ryeg) which means -

'I want to learn Welsh!'

If you do want to learn some Welsh, remember to follow us on Twitter:

@MaesD_Steddfof or listen out for the phrases on Bro Radio - or in the weekly Eisteddfod page here in THE GEM.

Tocynna u ar Werth

MAE tocynnau Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg wedi mynd ar werth ar wefan yr Eisteddfod a thrwy'r llinell docynnau - **0845 4090 800**, ac am y tro

cyntaf eleni, mae modd dewis eich union sedd drwy'r system ar-lein.

Meddai Trefnydd yr Eisteddfod, Hywel Wyn Edwards: "Mae tocynnau'r Eisteddfod wedi bod ar werth ers Mawrth 1af ac mae hi eisoes yn brysus ar y ffonau ac ar-lein wrth i bobl fynd ati i brynu tocynnau'n gynnar. Gyda chyngerd agoriadol Only Men Aloud a Chyngerd y Côr, bydd yn perfformio gwaith newydd Karl Jenkins, yn arbennig o boblogaidd."

"Dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf rydym wedi gweld mwy a mwy o Eisteddfodwyr yn troi at y we er mwyn prynu tocynnau, ac eleni, rydym yn cynnig gwasanaeth newydd ar y wefan. Mae modd dewis eich sedd eich hun am y tro cyntaf erioed. Yn y gorffennol, roedd y cyfrifiaduwr yn dewis sedd orau ar gael ar y pryd i'r rheini a oedd yn prynu ar-lein, ond o heddiw ymlaen, gallwch ddewis lle y byddwch yn eistedd."

"Rwy'n siw'r y bydd pobl yn gwerthfawrogi'r cyfle i wneud hyn, ond fel arfer, mae croeso i unrhyw un ffonio'r llinell docynnau hefyd os ydych chi eiddoedd. Mae staff a gwirfoddolwyr yr Eisteddfod hefyd wedi bod yn brysus yn hyrwyddo'r Eisteddfod wrth ymweld â gwahanol ardaloedd gyda Dilys, sef y camper fan goch fydd yr Eisteddfod yn defnyddio dros y misoedd nesaf i hyrwyddo'r Eisteddfod. Yn ôl Hywel Wyn Edwards: "Mae'n bwysig iawn i ni i hyrwyddo'r ffaith fod yr Eisteddfod yn dod i'r Fro a bod yr Eisteddfod yn cynnig rhywbeth at bob aelod o'r teulu yn ogystal â rhoi gwybod i drigolion y Fro am y cynigion arbennig sydd ar gael o ran tocynnau i'r rhai sydd eisieu dod i'r Eisteddfod."

nhw'n awyddus i siarad gyda rhywun wrth brynu tocyn, neu os nad oes mynediad i'r we.

"Dyma'r cyfle cyntaf hefyd i brynu tocynnau Maes i'r Brifwyl eleni, ac mae'r rhain ar gael am bris gostyngol ar hyn o bryd a than 1 Gorffennaf. Mae'r cynllun tridiau ar y Maes am bris deudydd hefyd ar gael rw'an, ynghyd â'r tocin wythnos, ac mae'r cyfan oll yn cynnig bargaen arbennig i Eisteddfodwyr o bob oed."

Mae'r cyngherddau eleni yn cynnwys nifer o berfformwyr lleol o Fro Morgannwg gan gynnwys y gantores Opera o Benarth Rebecca Evans fydd yn perfformio gyda Chôr yr Eisteddfod ar nos Sadwrn, Awst 4. Yn hllith y perfformwyr yng nghyngerd Dafydd Iwan ar y nos Lun fydd Miriam a Greta Isaac o'r Bontfaen a Chôr Heol y March, côr lleol sydd yn cynnwys plant o bob cwr o Fro Morgannwg.

Mi fydd cyngerd nos lau, Awst 9 yn ddathliad o un o berfformwyr mwyaf amryddawn Cymru, Caryl Parry Jones. Er yn enedigol o Ogledd Cymru mae Caryl erbyn hyn yn falch o alw Bro Morgannwg ac wedi ymgartrefu yn yr

ardal ers blynyddoedd. Mae staff a gwirfoddolwyr yr Eisteddfod hefyd wedi bod yn brysus yn hyrwyddo'r

Eisteddfod wrth ymweld â gwahanol ardaloedd gyda Dilys, sef y camper fan goch fydd yr Eisteddfod yn defnyddio dros y misoedd nesaf i hyrwyddo'r Eisteddfod. Yn ôl Hywel Wyn Edwards: "Mae'n bwysig iawn i ni i hyrwyddo'r ffaith fod yr Eisteddfod yn dod i'r Fro a bod yr Eisteddfod yn cynnig rhywbeth at bob aelod o'r teulu yn ogystal â rhoi gwybod i drigolion y Fro am y cynigion arbennig sydd ar gael o ran tocynnau i'r rhai sydd eisieu dod i'r Eisteddfod."

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GEM RURAL PROFILE

Seasonal Country and Farming Update



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Fund aims to help farmers diversify

RURAL Development funding for farmers in the Vale, aimed at farm diversification projects, is being promoted by NFU Cymru for those seeking to find alternative income streams in the future.

The aim of the 'Pride in our Farming Families' grant scheme is to allow farmers in rural areas of the Vale to have the opportunity to invest in new initiatives on their farm.

Nia Hollins of Creative Rural Communities (CRC), who attended the Glamorgan NFU Cymru county meeting at the Bear Hotel in Cowbridge, said: "The Creative Rural Communities partnership developed this scheme in the hope that the investment will support our farming community to become more sustainable in the long term and help keep the skills of the farming household within their own business."

"Funding of up to £40,000, or 70 per cent of the total project cost, whichever is lowest, is available to farmers setting up a non-agricultural diversification project."

Andrew Edwards, NFU Cymru Glamorgan County chairman said, "This budget is only allocated until December 2013, so anyone thinking about a diversification project should most definitely explore this avenue for funding."

"This is money which

has been deducted on a compulsory basis from farmers through a deduction from their direct support, so I encourage everyone to look at what funding is available from county councils throughout Wales, to see if this money can be recovered in order to be regenerated

ed within the rural economy through on farm diversification projects."

Anyone wishing to discuss prospective projects can contact Nia Hollins on 01446 775388 or email: nhollins@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Septic tank registration reminder issued for Wales

ENVIRONMENT Agency Wales is reminding people in Wales to register their septic tanks or small package treatment plants as soon as possible.

The agency is sending letters and registration forms to more than 70,000 people who are believed to have septic tanks, to make the registration process as simple as possible.

An agency spokeswoman said:

"There is strong evidence that poorly maintained septic tanks are contributing to poor water quality in rivers, lakes and coastal waters and there is also a danger that pollution from septic tanks could contaminate private water supplies from wells, boreholes and springs. "Knowing the location of septic tanks will help agency officers check for any poorly maintained septic tanks that could be the cause of pollution in the area."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)

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GEM RURAL PROFILE

Seasonal Country and Farming Update



Septic tank reminders

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14)

She continued: "In response to some concerns raised by members of the public, the agency would like to clarify that anyone who is unaware of the requirement will always be given the opportunity to register or obtain a permit."

"If people do not take this opportunity, enforcement action would be considered but the agency's

first priority would be to get them registered."

In Wales, for the majority of people, registration is a simple process, free of charge and a one-off requirement.

Single properties with up to nine occupants should be able to register for free.

However, in some cases (less than 3 per cent of septic tanks in Wales) where a household has a larger septic tank or where a septic tank discharges within a sensitive area, a permit will be required. This is specified by the environmental regulations and there may be a one-off £125 charge.

Chris Mills, the director of Environment Agency Wales, said: "We are alerting people now to give them the time they need to complete the forms they will receive shortly. Alternatively, they can register through our website."

"The majority of people will only need to fill in and return the form we send them to be registered."

"Following that, all we want is for people to maintain their septic tanks to a good standard to avoid any unintentional pollution."

To register online, go to www.environment-agency.gov.uk/sewagedischarge or call 03708 506 506 to request a form.

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Out and About with The GEM

Women's Day INTERNATIONAL
Women's Day is being celebrated with open discussions on various topics, poems and songs today (Thursday, March 8) at The Ship Inn, Barry from 7pm-9pm. Cost £1 (includes snacks). Contact womenstime-out@ymail.com or telephone 07955 591093.

Friends meet
THE meeting of the Friends of Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery, Barry, will be held on Friday, March 9 at 7pm, in Barry Town Council Offices, Gladstone Road, Barry.

Following the candle lighting event on Christmas Eve, when visitors donated £250, the Friends now have around £1,000 available to spend on work in the cemetery.

Why not come along with your ideas to improve this beautiful Victorian cemetery?

The next candle lighting event will again be in the chapel on Mother's Day, Sunday, March 18 from 10am

3pm. **NH Vale AM's surgery**
THE Vale of Glamorgan AM, Jane Hutt, will be holding a surgery on Saturday, March 10 at Barry Citizens' Advice Bureau, 119 Broad Street, from 10am to 12 noon. No appointment necessary.
Tory choice
COUNS Katherine Kemp and Marguerita Wright have been selected by the Welsh Conservatives to contest Dyfan ward at the forthcoming local elections in May. Both have represented the Barry ward on the Vale Council since 2008.

They will be holding an advice surgery at Highlight Park community centre this Saturday (March 10) between 10am-11am; no appointments are necessary.

Spiritualist meetings
CADOXTON Christian Spiritualist Church, Kenilworth Road, is having a 'Day of Readings' on Saturday, March 10

from 10-3pm.
On March 16, there will be a special evening of clairvoyance with Bernie Scott from Bristol. Contact 01446 746670 for full details.

Church re-opening
THIS Sunday, March 11 at 10.15am, the Right Reverend David Wilbourne, Assistant Bishop of Llandaff, will lead celebrations to re-open the Barry Church of Merthyr Dyfan, after months of repairs and restoration.

Everyone welcome, in particular residents and children of the Colcot estate.

History talk
AT the next meeting of Dinas Powys Local History Society on March 13 at 7.30pm in Kynance Hall, there will be an illustrated lecture by David Maddox on The Tonypandy Riots.

An administration fee of £2 will be charged at the door for non-members, and £1.50 for members.

All welcome.
Enquiries to Jeff Childs (02920 513615).

Mayor's coffee
THE Mayor of the Vale's charity coffee morning in the Corporate Site, Civic

Office, Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday, March 13 from 10.30am to 12 noon, will be in aid of the British Red Cross.

UN goals
DO you know what the UN's 8 Millennium Development Goals are? Do you know how we are doing, 12 years on?

The Social Justice committee of Penarth and District Cytun (Churches Together) is holding a public meeting on Thursday, March 15 in All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, at which Dr John Weaver will be speaking on the topic of 'The Christian Response to Millennium Goals'.

Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start; admission free. Come along for a glass of wine or a cup of coffee and find out more – all are welcome.

Chorale concert
THE St Donat's Atlantic Chorale – a 60-strong mixed voice community choir will appear at 7.30pm on Saturday, March 17 at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge.

The choir will include music from *Messiah* to Simon and Garfunkel – a choral tapestry for springtime. Tickets £8, available

direct from choir members, via St Donats Arts Centre on 01446 799100, or online at www.stdonats.com.

At 6.30pm on Sunday, June 24 in Bradenstoke Hall, St Donats Castle, music and stories for midsummer, features St Donats Atlantic Chorale.

Big Breakfast
THE annual Big Breakfast and table top sale will be in All Saints Church Hall, Penarth, on Saturday, March 17 from 9.30am until 12 noon.

Enjoy a sociable breakfast and browse round the stalls.

Barnardo's eggs
PARK Independent Funeral Directors are calling on residents to help build a Easter egg mountain for Barnardo's Cymru.

Easter eggs can be handed to Lyndsay at the office in Tynewydd Road.

Spring concert in Dinas

DINAS Powys Orchestra are performing a spring concert in the Parish Hall on Sunday, March 25 at 7.30pm, consisting of Shostakovich's 'Cello Concerto No. 1'.

Ben Tarlton, son of musical director Antony, is returning to play with the orchestra and has played the cello since he was five.

The programme will open with Symphony No. 93 by Haydn and will close with Symphony No. 38 'The Prague' by Mozart.

Tickets are £6 (£3 age twelve and under), and are available at the door on the night or from Dinas Powys Post Office on Station Road; Murch Sub Post Office, Dinas Powys and the Clerk, Dinas Powys Parish Hall. Call 029 20704195 for more information.

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(There are 4 tickets in each set which can be used by adult or child). These tickets will be valid from 16th March to 5th November 2012 and will be sent out by LEGOLAND Windsor on receipt of winners' details. Tickets are worth approx £140 per set.

For your chance to win one of these fabulous prizes, simply answer the following question:
Who was the villain in Star Wars? a) Darth Vader; b) Darth Trader; c) Garth Vader
Send your answers on a sealed envelope or a postcard (no e-mail entries accepted) to:
GEM (LEGO Competition), 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL.
Closing date: Friday, March 16th 2012. Please remember to include a telephone number.
Normal competition rules apply. The judges decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into. There is no cash alternative.

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Ty Hafan plea

LOCAL residents are being urged to take their unwanted clothing and household items to their nearest Ty Hafan hospice shop.

"Ty Hafan relies entirely on the generosity of local people in bringing their donations to the shops," explained Justin Horton, the charity's retail general manager.

"We're seeing fewer donations coming in each week and that's a real threat to our ability

to raise money for life limited children, young people and their families in Wales.

"All money raised by the Ty Hafan's 20 shops make a contribution towards helping to provide comfort care and support for life-limited children, young people and their families."

You can find your nearest Ty Hafan shop by visiting www.tyhafan.org. Donations can also be taken to Ty Hafan's donation station which is located at the Ty Verlon Industrial Estate in Barry.



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Ideal time to take mum out on her special day

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plenty of choice!

THERE are just 10 days to go until Mothering Sunday, which is on March 18 this year, so there is ample time to plan a family get-together.

The stresses and strains of modern day life can mean we sometimes struggle to see loved ones as much as we would like to.

But there are certain days in the year - Mothers' Day, Fathers' Day and Christmas Day - when everyone should make that extra effort.

Barring the obstacle of long distances or different countries, there is no excuse not to take your mother out for lunch, or perhaps an evening meal, on March 18. The Vale and Bridgend can boast an array of high-quality restaurants and picturesque public houses that more than fit the bill.

If you don't act now and book a table,

you could be one of the people hosting your mother at home, when you would rather a restaurant take the strain and prepare the meal.

Many years ago, I lived in a village out in the country.

It was a tight-knit community and I spent almost as much time in the home of my closest friend as I did in my own home.

My friend and his mother were always so welcoming, and I remember those days with real fondness.

Late last year, I heard that his much-loved mother had died.

For him, Mothers' Day will evoke a thousand cherished memories, but the opportunity to spend precious time with her is over.

None of us knows what the future holds, so make the most of special family times like Mother's Day - because no one wants to live with regrets.

TRC

Choral Society's new man with the baton



Thomas Morgan, Barry Choral Society's new conductor.

BARRY Choral Society has a new conductor, **Thomas Morgan**, who graduated from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in 2010.

He studied composition with Dr Robert Spearing, winning the Barry Choral Society Composition Prize (2008, 2010) and the Elgar Society Prize (2007).

Before becoming director of music at the Church of Saint Andrew and Saint Teilo in Cathays, Cardiff, Thomas studied music at the University of Salford.

A former organ scholar of Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, he recently studied towards an MA in choral conducting.

Recent highlights include playing the organs of Gloucester Cathedral and Westminster Abbey and conducting his oratorio, 'The Passion of Christ' and Benjamin Britten's 'A Ceremony of Carols'.

He currently works as a freelance composer, conductor and organist.

The public is invited to rehearsals at Crossway Methodist Church on Wednesdays between 7.30pm and 9.30pm.

Freedom march through Penarth

ON Saturday (March 17) at 11am, soldiers of 580 Glamorgan Transport Squadron RLC (V) will be parading through Penarth to mark the granting of the honorary Freedom of the Town to the Unit.

The association with Penarth of the old Army Service Corps and the Royal Corps of Transport dates back to 1937, when 555 Company RASC (TA) was first formed in the Drill Hall in Woodland Place with the recruiting area designated as Penarth and Barry.

Since that time, the Unit has undergone several changes and in 1966, when it was known as 532 Ambulance Squadron Royal Corps of Transport (TA) the

Penarth Urban District Council adopted the Unit. That event was marked with a parade through the town and a church service.

In 1987, Penarth Town Council marked the 25th anniversary of the adoption when the Unit, then known as D Troop 223 Squadron, paraded through the town and was presented with a commemorative scroll at a church service.

The Unit, which is now known as 580 Squadron RLC and is based at Maindy Barracks, continues to support the town, more recently at the Armed Forces Day Parade held in June last year and at the Remembrance Parade and Service.

To mark this long association, Penarth Town Council will confer the honorary Freedom of the town

on the Unit and a new scroll will be presented at a service in All Saints Church.

It will be conducted by the Rev Peter Cox, assisted by the Town Mayor's Chaplain, Rev Malcolm Davies and the Padre of the Welsh Transport Regiment RLC, Rev Michael Rowlands.

Prior to the church service, the Town Mayor, Coun Anthony Ernest, will inspect the Parade in Lower Glebe Street at 10.45am.

At 11am, the Parade, led by the Corps of Drums and the Band of the 150 (Yorkshire) Transport Regiment Royal Logistic Corps (Volunteers) will march via Windsor Road and Stanwell Road to All Saints Church.

The Town Mayor will take the salute outside the Council Offices at West House at about 11.08 am.

After the service at 12.15 approximately, the parade will form up in Victoria Square and march to the Paget Rooms via Stanwell Road and Victoria Road, where a reception will be held in honour of 580 Squadron.

The church service is open to members of the public, particularly to anyone who has had a previous connection with 580 Squadron or its predecessors.

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ARMY PAY BOOK FOUND

AN Army pay book (circa World War Two) has come into my possession and I would dearly like to return it to the ex-soldier or his family.

The papers relate to 4619609 Tpr. Ferguson William John.

He was born on November 21, 1917 and his address (then) was 18 Scott Street, Treherbert, Rhondda.

His wife's name is given as Margaret and a daughter Elizabeth is referred to. William

served with the 8th Army in North Africa and Italy and was wounded in action.

He was released from the Army in March 1946.

If the family would like to contact me, I would be only too pleased to give these papers to the rightful owners.

I can be contacted at 12 Carmarthen Close, Llantwit Major, CF61 2GL, telephone 01446 793363, email tc12osullivan@aol.com
Tim O'Sullivan MBE, Royal British Legion.

Inspirational Homes and Gardens

Monty Don – godfather of gardening – returns to the TV screens this week

SPRING is one of gardener Monty Don's favourite times of the year, when primroses, daffodils, fritillaries and tulips emerge in his beautiful garden at Longmeadow.

It's a sight he won't enjoy alone, as two million viewers who tune into Gardeners' World every week will be invited to share the many glories of his two-acre garden, which is divided into 19 different sections, and last year became the new base of the hit gardening programme.

For nine months of the year, from February

to November, TV crews film in his garden in the Herefordshire Marches, eight miles from the Welsh border.

The nurtured space will be revealed in the new series of Gardeners' World, which begins tomorrow (March 9) on BBC Two.

It is accompanied by a tie-in book, *Gardening At Longmeadow*.

Don, the programme's main presenter, admits that opening up his own two-acre private garden to the cameras hasn't come without its drawbacks, but the pros far outweigh the cons.

"The good thing is I have no journey, the

by HANNAH STEPHENSON

downside is that I live above the shop. I never turn off from it."

The film crew aren't allowed in the house, and the TV equipment is stored in an outhouse when not in use.

Don may have allowed the cameras in, but he's in charge of the garden. For the last five years, he and his wife Sarah have had no help at all, until the BBC insisted on it. Don now has two full-time gardeners to assist.

"The slight downside of that means I do less gardening, because

there's less to do. It's a bit like having a chef in the kitchen asking if I'd like a poached egg, when I could quite easily poach one myself."

But he remains the master of his own domain.

"Nobody tells me what to do in my own garden. People are genuinely helping me, rather than doing it themselves and then telling me about it."

Filming takes place on one or two days in the week, depending on what's happening in the garden, although some-

times filming has taken three or even four days a week. And Don has had to compromise in some measure as to how he wants his garden to be, for the sake of the programme.

It's a complicated, large, full garden – no big lawns, no empty spaces, even the orchard has 39 apple trees.

"We've had to widen quite a lot of paths which are perfectly good for wheeling a wheelbarrow down. But by the time you get a camera crew with a tripod and a sound recordist with size 12 feet and a director with a monitor, you can have six people behind the camera or more, and then tracks and a jib. The original paths can't accommodate all that."

"We've had to widen a number of paths and we still are. Where we've had grass paths, we've had to put hard paths. As with any public place, the equation has had to change with volume." At any one time, 90 per cent of the garden needs to look good, which can be difficult to achieve, he reflects.

"Inevitably, all of the garden has to look good all the time, whereas in a private garden, if you hadn't weeded that bed, you do it when you can. Or if you got terribly behind with your veg, you'd think: 'Ok, I won't grow any peas this year'."

"A TV programme doesn't allow for that, but I do try to show the camera where things go wrong and show the human side of it, rather

than making it a show garden, because it's not a show garden."

He stresses that the BBC has been extremely good about not trying to lose the personal element.

"Obviously you lose your privacy to a degree because you are sharing it with x-million people."

"On one hand you want more people to see it, on the other you only want to have invited people. But there are certain boundaries which are not crossed."

"For example, we never have visitors from the public to Longmeadow, although we often get letters from people asking to come and see it. You always have to say no because you know it's the thin end of the wedge."

Occasionally, tourists will turn up unannounced, anxious for a glimpse of the famous TV garden, but the locals are keen to allow the Dons their space. After all, they've lived there for 20 years and are well known enough in the village.

This year, Don will be creating a pond in the Damp Garden and is looking forward to seeing the fruits of last year's labours with great swathes of colour in the Jewel Garden and elsewhere.

● *Gardening At Longmeadow*, by Monty Don, is published by BBC Books on March 15, priced £25. The new series of *Gardeners' World* starts tomorrow, Friday, March 9 on BBC Two.

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Inspirational Homes and Gardens

WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT, AND WHERE?

Mrs Mary Gardner – St Brides House, Kymyn Road, Penarth – Western red cedar; dismantled in sections and cut main trunk close to ground level.
Sian Jones – Llantwit

Major Library, Boverton Road, Llantwit Major – Refurbishment of main building and the installation of a new public access off Boverton Road plus replacement

main entrance; minute no. 1979 (2002).
Mrs June Lewis – 222 Barry Road, Barry – Special needs adaptations; kitchen extension and internal alterations to enlarge shower, WC and other alterations together with ramped access to rear garden area.

Morgan Signs – Principality Building Society, 28 High Street, Cowbridge – Consent to display two signs.
Mr Christopher Williams – The Three Tuns, St Nicholas – Interior and exterior alterations, including replacement of windows to front and rear elevations, replacement front door and installation of new gallery staircase, fitted kitchen and toilets.
The Vale of Glamorgan Council – Library, Kings Square, Barry – Installation of communications equipment.
Mr Simon Pedwell – 29 Willow Close, Penarth – Attic dormer extension to rear of property.
Mrs Ruth Quinn – The Old School, Wine Street, Llantwit Major – Roof repairs.
Richard Denham –

Twmbarlwm, Grove Road, Llandow – 1/2 storey rear extension including kitchen extension and new family room to ground floor. New master bedroom and en suite and new study/bedroom to first floor (renewal of 2007/00275/FUL).
Mr T Lewis – 180 Westbourne Road, Penarth – Proposed two storey extension to rear. Mr Elfed Evans – 16 Hickman Road, Penarth – Single and two storey extensions to the rear of the property.

McDonalds Restaurants Ltd – Valegate Retail Park, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff – Replacement and new signage in relation to 2012/00105/FUL for the refurbishment of restaurant.
R Trezise – 7 Clos Celyn, Barry – Reduce oak in rear garden.
Mr Howells – 2 Porth Cottages, St Brides Super Ely – Porch to rear of property.

Arqiva Limited – Arqiva Transmitting Station, St Hilary, Cowbridge – Installation of one emergency standby generator with integral fuel storage.
Mr and Mrs Garland – 3 Plover Way, Lavernock Park, Penarth – Single storey rear extension.
Mr Mark Mellars – 44 Plymouth Road, Barry – Single storey side extension.

Mrs Vanessa Adams – 3 Pwll y Min Crescent, Peterston Super Ely – Addition of external insulation and new render.
Lidl UK GmbH – Cennin Pedr, Barry – Wallmounted billboard.
Mr Paul Hopkins – Groeswen Farm, Cowbridge Road, Llantwit Major – Erection of conservatory.
Mrs S Gunning – 43

Cosmeston Drive, Penarth – Front entrance porch.
Mr Brian Wingren – 18 Pembroke Close, Dinas Powys – Detached garage to the rear of the property.
Mr A Miller – Brynheulog, St Andrews Road, Wenvoe – Alterations to window arrangements and extensions to property to provide pool and gym; dormer to master room and front porch.

Conversion of garage to play room, removal of chimney stack and insertion of external flue.
Miss R Owen – 4 West Farm Road, Ogmere By Sea – Conversion of bungalow to two storey dwelling, extension and loft conversion.
Principality Building Society – Land at Ty Croes Cwrllys, Cophthorne Way, Culverhouse Cross – Variation of condition 2 of application

2008/02057/OUT to extend timeframe for 'reserved matters' submission.
Mr Neil Davies – E2959, N1709, Morfa Lane, Llantwit Major – Construction of two earth banked bio-fertiliser storage lagoons.
Mr John Clark – Land opposite St Brides Road, Wick – Application for the retention of 4 no. railway carriages and continued use in association with existing stable use.

Tony King Architects Ltd – 97a Glebe Street, Penarth – Change of use from B1 office back to a C3 two bed flat.
Mr and Mrs Derek Osborn – 10 The Limes, Cowbridge – construction of garden recycling store in rear walled garden.
Professor Harry Collins – 12 Paget Place, Penarth – Proposed two storey extension and garage.

Argoed Quarry Limited – Argoed Isha Quarry, Llansannor, Llanharry – Change of use to allow for recycling of inert materials brought to the site.
IGH Properties – Land off Dinas Road, Caversham Park, Penarth – Residential development comprising

the erection of eight of eight dwellings, seven entrance car parking spaces, landscaping and ancillary works.
Mr and Mrs Frank and Laioe Moloney – 10 Park Road, Penarth – Extension to rear of existing house, creating new kitchen area on ground floor level as well as balconies and new sunroom at first floor level.
Mr Christopher Davies – The Vicarage, St Brides Major – Pole barn.

Mr Andrew Thomas – Burton Cottage, East Aberthaw – Proposed alterations to modify dwelling to include an indoor swimming pool and associated structural works.
Mr Vince Price – Rear building, 79 Eastgate, Cowbridge – Forming vehicle access through to rear garden with security gates and internal alterations.

Mr Paul and Mrs Peta Goodwin – The Birches, 2 Dingle Close, Barry – Erect 2.5m high wall between house and garage.
Dr Sarah Pellard – Gardd y Gegin, St Hilary – Remove existing conservatory and extend into newly proposed orangery to rear of property and single storey side extension.

Minor alterations to suit.
Mrs Julie Howes – 15 Colcot Road, Barry – Erection of two storey rear extension.
Mr M A Rees – Warren House, Pendoylan – Proposed construction of two separate buildings to the rear of the existing dwelling.
Argoed Quarry Limited – Argoed Isha Quarry, Llansannor – Processing of existing stockpiles and loose material with crushing and screen machinery and removal from site.

Mr Richard Tonkin – Old Hall Gardens, High Street, Cowbridge – Open air children's story telling area.
Morgan Sindall (Infrastructure) Plc – Kymyn Sewer Outfall – Refurbishments to the Kymyn sewer outfall pipe.
Mr Gary Riggs – 13 Lynmouth Drive, Sully – Roof extension above

existing garage comprising additional first floor accommodation.
Mr Robert Priddle – Rhos Geler, Cornstown Road, Cornstown – Proposed kitchen extension and kitchen adaptation.

Miss C Platt – Fonnon, Barry – To remove the BT payphone.
Mr Ramesh Kerai – Shop Unit 1, Skomer Road, Barry – Proposed external left-side enclosure, blockage of existing right-side redundant opening to retail, infill of redundant steps to form platform and proposed display signage.

Mr David Vicker – Ty Newydd, Westgate, Cowbridge – Construct single and two storey extension to rear and side to create dining area and more bedrooms.
Mr Michael Tough, Field/highway access at Penyrheol Farm, Llyswoerby – widen the existing gateway by cutting the hedge back approximately four metres to install double gates.
Mrs Judith Dutton, Cartref, 194 Porth Road East, Barry –

change of use of woodland to residential use.
Mr Mike and Mrs Lindsay Cuddy, 9 Paget Place, Penarth – new build two storey two bedroom dwelling adjacent to existing property t 9 Paget Place.

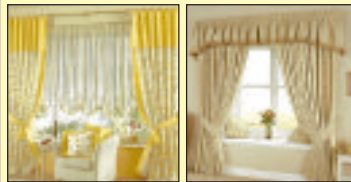
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Cartref Porthceiri Home for Elderly, Salisbury Road, Barry – alterations to car park and entrance to Cartref Porthceiri to comply with DDA requirements.

Mr Mills, The Timbers, 10 Castle Precinct, Llandough – 304m overall crown reduction of one weeping willow and remove any branches obstructing pavement.
McDonalds Restaurants Ltd. Valegate Retail Park, Barry – various signs in line with refurbishment, including one height restrictor seven freestanding signs and one banner sign.
Mr Ralph Evans, Seaview Cottage, Seaview Farm, Llantwit Major Road, St Athan – change of use from agricultural land to garden land.

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The Basset Park art project members with Deputy Minister for Skills, Jeff Cuthbert.

'Outstanding' Barry youth project wins national award

A BARRY youth work project has won an award at this year's 'Youth Work Excellence' awards.

The Basset Park art project won the award for Outstanding

Community Project at the event, organised by the Welsh Government, in Cardiff.

The project, organised by the Vale Youth Street Team, has inspired young people to have pride in their local park.

As part of the regeneration of Basset Park a group of local young people designed and created an art wall in the park, turning an eye-sore into a beautiful work of art representing what the park meant to them.

NEWS FROM THE ST CYRES SCHOOL

ABDI RECEIVES HIS WELSH UNDER-16 FOOTBALL CAP

ABDI Noor was selected by the Welsh Schools' FA last term to represent Wales at under-16 level.

Abdi was praised by the Welsh FA and the Welsh Football Trust for his efforts in games against Scotland, England and Northern Ireland.

The Welsh FA commented: "Throughout the campaign, Abdi has conducted himself with courtesy and has always behaved professionally and has brought great credit to both his family and the school."

Geographers visit

Heatherton

THE geography department took a group of 55 year-9 pupils to Heatherton Activity Park in Tenby.

The aim of the visit was for pupils to assess the impact of tourism on a rural location. Pupils completed a range of different activities including archery, crazy golf, go-karting and trying the new 40m zip wire.

A great day was had by all and the trip will provide pupils with a useful case study.

Golden girls aiming for a sportier Vale

AS preparations for the London 2012

Games enter the home straight, St Cyres student Rhoslyn Frugniel will be working hard to ensure that the Olympics and Paralympics help to create a legacy of local youngsters having a life-long love of sport.

Rhoslyn is one of only three girls to have been appointed by the Vale Council as new 'Gold Ambassadors' to act as role models to their peers, and they'll be using the London 2012 Games as a cata-



ABOVE: Students at a fashion workshop in the Atrium.

lyst to motivate others to take part in more school sport, get down to their local leisure centre, join a sports club, or do whatever they can to lead a healthier lifestyle.

Rhoslyn and Danielle Lane of Stanwell School (pictured right), who are both year-13 pupils, were selected to join the ranks of the elite sporting ambassadors in Wales for the excellent example they have set by volunteering their time to help out with coaching and leading sports sessions.

Both girls have embraced the challenge of encouraging their schoolmates to become more active, and will be giving presentations in school assemblies about the Young Ambassador Scheme in the New Year.

Geographers sponsor the rainforests

YEAR-8 students from St Cyres School have just finished learning about the rainforest in Geography.

As part of this topic, they learnt about ways in which people can help to protect the rainforest. One way is to sponsor a section of rainforest to ensure it is protected



into the future.

The year-8 pupils decided that they wanted to help. Pupils either made a donation or carried out fundraising activities such as a sponsored silence, swim or run.

A total of £110 was raised which has enabled the school to sponsor 1.5 acres (about 1.5 football pitches) of rainforest. Our donation to the World Land Trust has turned threatened wildlife habitats into nature reserves.

Our donation will be used to permanently protect habitat in Ecuador, Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico. Thanks to everyone for their help.

Fashion workshop

PUPILS from years-11, 12 and 13 with an interest in art, textiles and fashion took part in a creative workshop run by The University of Glamorgan depart-

ment of Fashion and Retail, based in The Atrium in Cardiff.

The day included an introduction to fashion drawing and emphasised the use of collage, fashion illustration, and text. Pupils experimented with fashion images, fabrics, yarns and threads, text and applique.

During the day, pupils created a front cover for a fashion magazine and designed a patriotic outfit for the London 2012 Olympics based on the theme 'I Heart London'.

Fiona Howells, lecturer and workshop organiser, commented on the creativity demonstrated by the pupils, and was impressed by their affinity for working in collage media.

Year-11 GCSE Art pupil Jade Andrews said: "It was a really interesting day which gave us the opportunity to bring our own ideas to life".

Pupils help Dorothy get home to Kansas



The enthusiastic stage hands!

RECENTLY, a hugely successful production of *The Wizard of Oz* was performed for three evenings at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, with audiences commenting that it was as good as a West End show.

A large number of pupils were involved in both performing and in making the stage sets. A lot of fun was had by all the pupils and they loved putting on a top quality show for all to enjoy.

CR

School's 'All-Wales' quiz triumph

St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, Barry came top of the class after winning the All Wales Core Programme quiz at the national final held on February 9.

This year's final, held in Cardiff, was organised as a partnership initiative between the Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Arson Reduction Teams, Healthy Schools, Road Safety Wales and Crimestoppers.

Linda Roberts, national coordinator of the All-Wales Schools Liaison Core Programme, Communities and Partnerships South Wales Police said: "I would like to congratulate the four teams who reached the finals and in particular St Richard Gwyn School, Barry."

News from St Cyres School

Anti-smoking workshops

IN January, year-8 pupils from St Cyres School, Penarth, were recruited to take part in the 'DECIPHER-ASSIST' Smoking Prevention Project funded by the Welsh Government.

If implemented, throughout the UK, it is estimated that the 'assist programme' would prevent 40,000 young people taking up smoking each year.

A team of three trainers from Public Health Wales delivered a workshop session at St Cyres followed by two days training at the New House Country Hotel in Thornhill.

Pupils took part in workshops, including group discussions, educational games and role plays, learnt about the many dangers of smoking, as well as the skills needed to become 'peer educators'.

Grace in UK final

GRACE HARTREY, a year-13 pupil at St Cyres school, won a place in the UK final of the national youth music competition, *The Next Brit Thing*.

Having beaten off many other talented musicians in the Welsh semi-final of the competition, Grace was due to be the Welsh representative in the UK final at the O2 Arena in London, competing against 13 other finalists and playing her own composition, as she did in the Welsh semi-final.

Grace's prize for winning the Welsh semi-final was £500 of Roland music equipment and two tickets for the Brit Awards.

The school congratulated Grace on her achievement and wished her the best of luck for the prestigious final.

We are also proud to be the only school with two representatives in the Welsh semi-final as Ellie Jamieson, a very talented year-11 pupil, also made it through to the last eight in Wales. Both girls have a very bright future ahead of them.

SB



Dorothy, the Tinman and the Scarecrow.

Did you know you can read your GEM online?
barry-today.co.uk



BRYN HAFREN PUPILS' 'HOLIDAY OF A LIFETIME'

A GROUP of 59 girls and seven staff from Bryn Hafren school experienced the holiday of a lifetime during their half-term break.

The lucky group spent the week in sunny Florida, experiencing the delights of the Island of

Adventure in Universal Studio and Sea World.

A brilliant time was had by the staff and pupils and they all arrived back exhausted but happy with many memories of an amazing week.

LR

NEWS FROM BARRY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

Pupils spend a week getting more healthy

THE annual Healthy Living Week at Barry Comprehensive School has gone from strength to strength over the last few years.

This year looks as if it may have been the most successful yet with students and staff taking part in a wide range of activities promoting healthy eating, healthy bodies and healthy minds.

Fresh fruit was sold by members of the Student Parliament at break and lunch times, making a healthy profit to add to the school's fundraising for Sri Lanka.

Thanks must also go to Tesco for their kind donation, which was desperately needed when the grapes sold out after a day and a half!

Normal lessons were replaced with extra sports activities such as dodgeball, badminton, football and even break-dancing, all arranged by the school's 5x60 officer Stefan Williams, while a team of teachers took on year-10 in a charity football match... and lost!

Teachers from every subject joined in the healthy living fun, ensuring that whether it was PSE, geography, PE, English, RS, Welsh or French, students were immersed in all things healthy across the curriculum.

The canteen staff were involved too, using the week to promote their new even healthier menu.

This eventful week was kicked off with the whole of year-7 receiving training in 'Heartstart' emergency life-saving skills and a suitably dra-



Practicing performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)

matic end to the week was provided by Is It? Theatre Company, who performed plays exploring drug, alcohol and sexual health issues for years 8, 10 and 12.

Students have also been keeping healthy living logbooks to make sure their healthy choices continued on into half term.

The two students from each form who have made the most effort to improve their lifestyle can now look forward to a reward trip to Cardiff Pool on March 9.

AC



A brave contestant in the fruit challenge

Blood donors

THE Welsh Blood Service is holding donor sessions in the area as follows:

To view a comprehensive list of all our blood donation sessions, visit www.welshblood.org.uk or call 0800 252266.

Memorial Hall, Gladstone Road, Barry - Friday, March 9, 10am - 6pm.

Garw Valley Centre, Pontycymmer - Friday, March 23, 10am - 6pm.

The Life Centre, Aber Road, Ogmere Vale - Tuesday, March 27, 10am - 6pm.

Newlands Ballroom, Pyle Life Centre, Pyle - Friday, March 30, 10am - 6pm.

Memorial Hall, Bryncoch, Bryncethin - Friday, March 30, 10am - 6pm.



Enjoying a healthy breakfast

A RIOT OF COLOUR AS THE ALL SAINTS' PUPILS HONOUR WELSH PATRON SAINT

ST DAVID'S Day was once again celebrated in traditional style at All Saints Church in Wales Primary School, when art, craft, handwriting and creative writing competitions were held in the run-up to the big day.

March 1 was a riot of colour as every pupil entered the costume competitions and the eisteddfod began with the announcement of the creative writing competition.

The winner, Katie Serena Phillips, was pronounced Bard for 2012 for her wonderful poem and chaired in an authentic ceremony, led by Welsh co-ordinator Emma Evans and headteacher Richard Ware.

Katie was presented with flowers and a carved love spoon. The rest of the day was a celebration of Welsh culture through poetry, music and dance and the results of the various competitions.

The standard of entries was once again extremely high and it was no easy task for the judges. Mr Ware said that he was proud of the effort and enthusiasm displayed by the pupils and he thanked staff and children for another marvelous celebration of Welsh culture and heritage.

NM



Opera with a twist raises cash for RNLI

THE Barry fundraising branch of the RNLI has thanked Welsh National Opera (WNO) for a "magnificent evening" organised by Anitra Blaxhall, with members of the WNO chorus orchestra.

Also taking part was Helen and Jasey, accompanied by their pianist for the evening, Mr James Southall, who took part in a previous concert in 2010.

A spokesperson reported: They wowed the audience with a wide selection of operatic songs, classic show tunes and some comedy classics, and the artists were thanked for all their hard work and time in

putting on this fundraising event. The branch also thank all the fundraising members who generously donated the wine and all of the raffle prizes on the night, and everyone who bought tickets and made the show so successful.

The RNLI would also like to thank Barry Comprehensive School for the use of their facilities for the evening and are most grateful to them.

The Barry branch are always looking for volunteers to help with our fundraising, or if there are any other organisations in the town that would be prepared to do a fundraiser on our behalf then please ring 01446 734888.



Fundraising chairman Christine Tutton is pictured presenting a picture of the Barry lifeboat to Anitra Blaxhall of the WNO, who organised the evening.





Volunteers pictured during the litter pick in Batt's Field.

Batt's Park litter pick by local residents is a success!

A PARK clean recently carried out by volunteers in Barry has been hailed a success by a local councillor.

Independent Richard Bertin, who represents the Court ward in Barry, said the litter pick at

Batt's Field in the town over the weekend was highly successful, with a dozen volunteers filling 20 bin bags.

Coun Bertin said: "I would like to say a big thank you to all those who turned up for our park clean-up. It was good to see everyone give up a few

hours on a Sunday and do their bit to help the community."

He said: "We weren't expecting so many to turn up and we ran out of litter picker tools, but that didn't stop them getting stuck in."

'Friends of Romilly, we need your help!'

AS you may be aware, we are constructing a 'wall of pride' for our students, which will contain photographs of pupils of Romilly Primary School, past and present, who have achieved international recognition in their chosen sport or activity.

We have had a number of people get in contact with the school and we are now in the process of finalising all the details so we can construct this montage of international past pupils.

If you know a past pupil who has represented Wales or Great Britain in football, dance, gymnastics, rugby, karate, cycling – or have sporting memorabilia to donate, then please contact the school ASAP!

Could you include details of the person, the nature of their achievement, the dates they attended Romilly School and, if possible, a photograph of the person in their international colours.

Please spread the word via Flickr, Bebo, Facebook, Myspace or Twitter and let people know about this project.

This 'wall of pride' will provide a real sense of inspiration to our pupils and encourage them to continue the great sporting heritage we have at Romilly Primary School.

Mr A R Williams, Barry.

Mystery over school pupils 'toxic sweets' text warning

AS The GEM went to press yesterday (Wednesday) a mystery over a drugs warning circulating in Vale schools was still not entirely cleared up.

Anxious parents spoke to The GEM about a warning, apparently issued by a local comprehensive school, warning of "drugs that look like sweets but can kill" which are supposedly in circulation.

Calls to the police and the local education authority confirmed that neither body had issued an alert.

After several hours, however, a police spokeswoman said that it was believed that the source of these alerts was an NHS warning, issued in January.

The warning has since been picked up by different organisations at different times.

The GEM has seen a release issued by Cornwall NHS Trust in January, warning about a product called a 'Jequirity bracelet'. It says:

"We have received an

alert regarding the sale of the following bracelets that have been on sale in Cornwall and in another 36 retailers across the UK; urging customers to return the red and black bracelets made from the Jequirity bean, the deadly seed of the plant *Abrus precatorius*.

"It contains the toxin abrin, a controlled substance under the Terrorism Act that if swallowed can kill in doses of just 3 micrograms.

"Abrin is chemically similar to ricin, a chemical warfare agent. People who have bought the bracelets are being urged to bag them and then wash their hands and avoid touching their eyes."

The GEM understands that this warning has been passed on in the form of a text message.

A Vale Council spokeswoman said:

"The Vale Council has not received any reports of jequirity bracelets being found in the area and schools across the Vale have not issued any warnings to parents."

"The council is currently considering the issue."

Painting group's first exhibition

SULLY Art Painting Group are staging their first exhibition at the Washington Gallery, 1-3 Washington Buildings, Stanwell Road, Penarth, until March 16.

More than 120 works in different medias and subject matters are on display from at least 25 members of the group.

Contact Ros Adams tel 02920 707553 or Ken Young tel 02920 712013 for more information.

Author's tips for pupils



The years 7 and 8 writing squad at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg are pictured, above, with Welsh author Bethan Gwanas.

"They wrote some very interesting stories under her leadership and learnt how to appreciate and improve each other's work," a school spokesperson reported.

BARRY SCHOOL IS TOP OF THE CLASS



ABOVE: St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School were victorious in the national competition.

Ab Fab women's walk for charity

LOCAL women are being invited to take part in 'Ab Fab' – a girls' night out with a difference, by undertaking a 10-mile midnight walk for charity for The Joshua Foundation children's cancer charity, in Cardiff Bay on Saturday, April 28.

President and founder of The Joshua Foundation, Sarah Cornelius-Price said:

"Ab Fab has turned out to be a really successful fundraiser in recent years. It's a great opportunity for women to come together and make a difference. It's a fun walk, as opposed to a fun run, and so anyone can do it."

"Although this walk

is aimed at women, if men would like to dress up as women to take part or offer their services as marshals for the evening, they are more than welcome!"

The walk will take place around a designated route in Cardiff Bay. Ladies who decide to take part will be required to pay a £15 donation, and in return they will receive an 'Ab Fab' t-shirt, a certificate, and a bacon buttie with a glass of bubbly on completion of the walk.

All cash raised from sponsorship for the walk will go towards providing experiences for the children diagnosed with cancer and their families.

The Joshua Foundation was created in September 1998 to provide holidays and experiences for children and their families where the child is diagnosed with terminal cancer.

Since the charity was founded, it has raised more than £7 million and helped more hundreds of children across the UK.

For further information, to register for the walk or to register as a marshal please visit www.thejoshuafoundation.co.uk or telephone 02920 667271.

ST Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, Barry, came top of the class after winning the 'All Wales Core Programme' quiz at the recent national final.

This year's final, held in Cardiff, was organised by the Police, Fire and Rescue Service, arson reduction teams, healthy schools, Road Safety Wales and Crimestoppers.

The programme

focuses on crime prevention issues and is part of the PSE programme. It is composed of three main themes, namely drug and substance misuse, social behaviour and community and safety.

All comprehensive schools from across Wales were invited to compete at local level and the successful teams from each LEA then went on to compete for the regional title. The regional winners then went on to compete for the national title.

Councillor welcomes M4 consultation

A Vale councillor has welcomed the Welsh Government's decision to carry out a consultation into congestion on the M4 motorway.

Coun Jeff James, who represents Rhose on the Vale Council, said he welcomed the move by Carl Sargeant, the Transport Minister.

Coun James said: "As a member of Sewta – South East Wales Transport Alliance – I know that the impor-

tance of the M4 to the South Wales economy cannot be underestimated and increased congestion leads directly to increases costs to business and industry.

"Without good unhindered access to their markets we risk companies relocating away from this region."

Coun James added: "I welcome the Minister's announcement of consultation which was previously suspended by his predecessor."

PACT meetings

COURT PACT, 7pm on March 8 at Ysgol Maes Dyfan, Gibbonsdown Rise, Barry.

CASTLELAND PACT, 7pm on March 14 at the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry.

ILLTYD PACT, 7pm on March 22 at the Mount Sorrel Hotel, Porthkerry Road, Barry.

LLANTWIT MAJOR PACT, March 20 at Llantwit Leisure Centre at 7pm.

ST AUGUSTINE'S PACT, Windsor Public House on March 21 at 7pm.

Support your local businesses

The Glamorgan GEM

A LONDON EVACUEE IN BARRY DURING SECOND WORLD WAR

An Anderson shelter



Una Hudson was a Welsh girl who was one of those evacuated from London — to Barry!

I WAS contacted recently by GEM reader Una Hudson in response to my request for information regarding the American troops in the Vale of Glamorgan during World War Two. She writes:

I was an evacuee with a difference, as was my sister Joan. Our parents were both from south Wales, but had gone to London in the early thirties, seeking work.

My father was born in Maerdy, Rhondda and my mother in Pontypridd, their parents having come from west Wales and Dorset, respectively, to work in the coal mines.

Both families later moved to Barry, where my father met my mother. They subsequently married in St Mary's Church in Kennington, London.

I was born in Lambeth in 1934 and I must have been about three when I remember living in Doddington Grove, Kennington. It was a large block of flats and there was a Drill Hall at the bottom of the Grove. The men used to practice marching up and down the road, some in khaki, others in civilian suits.

My parents used to return with my sister and me to my mother's family home in Barry in the summer holidays.

In August 1939, Joan was six and I was five. That holiday turned out to last for six years, as war was declared on September 3, and my parents decided that London might not be a safe place for us.

The family home was a two-down and three-up terraced house with no electricity, or hot water and occupied by my aunt, her father and two brothers. Nevertheless, they made room for us with Joan and me sleeping with my aunt in a large bed with a feather mattress which rose and fell as you moved.

School was still the order of the day, and we started off at Palmerston Infants School. Later on in the war, the adjoining field was taken over as a barrage balloon site and the airmen took over a part of the school which was made out of bounds to the rest of us.

It was all very interesting for us living in the last street on the eastern edge of the town, and it amazes me now to think how much freedom we had to roam the countryside.

My uncles dug out an Anderson Shelter in the garden and sometimes we slept in it, but mostly I remember sleeping in the pantry, under the stairs. It was very dark in there amongst the pots and pans. My sister who was a year older than me was very frightened if there was an air-raid, but a lovely lady whom we knew as Auntie Clarice used to go up and

by DR JONATHAN HICKS

down the street, comforting the faint-hearted.

Everyone was issued with a ration book and an identity card with a personal number. I recall that a lot of us wore identity bracelets, albeit made of cheap metal; they made us feel quite special. Our ration books were kept at the local grocer's shop where the family order was made up every Thursday.

During the school holidays, my mother used to take me or my sister to London where we had a flat which she kept on all during the war. The train from Cardiff to Paddington station was always packed with men and women in army, navy or air force uniform, travelling back to their camps or maybe home on leave.

I remember the American tanks, jeeps, armoured vehicles and smoke screens all along the Barry, Cardiff and Sully Roads and one particularly hard winter they produced the first bulldozer and snow scraper we had ever seen — yes, the Yanks were really over here.

Hollywood on our doorstep!

We kids thought they were really glamorous, like the Hollywood stars we saw at the Hollywood afternoon cinema in Cadroxton and they played right along with us.

We used to chat to them as they waited for the bus into Cardiff at the bottom of our street, on their nights off, and we really believed that they knew Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Bob Hope and all our other favourite film stars.

I remember Italian prisoners of war being there afterwards, and even later on, men we recognised

as Mongolian.

The war in Europe ended on May 8, 1945 and as we had lived apart for so long, my mother decided to return to London. We had another sister now, born in 1942, so the flat which my parents had rented was too small for a family of five.

I remember my father being very excited to learn that the local council, or the London County Council to be exact, had allocated to us a pre-fab — or to give it its full title — a prefabricated house.

These houses were made to be put up quickly to house as many as possible of the people who had been 'bombed out' during the war.

It had two bedrooms, a living room, kitchen and a bathroom and was surrounded by a garden. They were only intended to last for ten years but some of them still remain occupied today.

Food and clothing rationing still carried on and we even had to queue for a loaf of bread, unheard of when we had lived in Wales!

The 'Barry at War' local history group is seeking to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the arrival of the American troops in the area in 1942 by staging a 'Wartime Weekend' event on Barry Waterfront and Barry Island Station on June 16-17.

If other readers have stories about the American troops in the area during World War Two and would be willing to share them in preparation for our event, I would be delighted to hear from them on 07708 255295.

The GEM is delighted to announce its support for this event and readers can look forward to many articles and features on the presence of the American troops in the Vale of Glamorgan in the period leading up to the living history weekend.

DR Jonathan Hicks will be giving a talk in All Saints Church, Barry on Tuesday, March 13 at 7pm commemorating the men named on the church's two war memorials.

Dr Hicks said: "After the Great War ended with the signing of the Armistice in 1918, the people of Barry set about deciding how best to commemorate the men who had fallen. Whilst it would not be until 1932 that the Memorial Hall was finally completed, the schools and churches immediately began raising funds to produce wooden or stone memorials for display in their buildings. "No one who has attended

school or church in Barry will have failed to notice the memorial contained therein.

"There are numerous memorials in the churches in Barry. The majority are in marble and list former members of the congregation who did not return after the wars ended. I will tell the stories of some of the men who attended All Saints Church who left Barry to serve their country and did not return."

Amongst these names is that of Thomas Henry Williams who had lived at 5 The Triangle, Barry Island. He was a regular soldier and served with the 2nd Battalion of the Grenadier Guards. Aged 21, he was killed on

November 7 1914 when a German shell exploded in the trench he was standing in just outside Arques during the First Battle of Ypres. His father said that on the night his son was killed he heard him calling to him in a dream. When the Second World War came 21 years after the end of the First World War, more men from All Saints Church joined the forces.

Amongst these was Henry Samuel Thomas (husband of Marjorie Thomas) who served as an RAF flight sergeant in a Lancaster bomber as wireless operator and air gunner with 622 Squadron. His aircraft took off from Mildenhall airfield on the June 1 1944 on a

mission to bomb the railway yards at Trappes in north-central France.

The Lancaster came under sustained attack from a German Junkers 88 night fighter and exploded. One of the crew was thrown from his turret by the force of the explosion and parachuted safely to the ground where he evaded capture and made his way back to Britain. Henry Thomas was not so fortunate and he lies buried in Marissel French National Cemetery.

Dr Hicks will recall the service of many more during his talk. Entrance is just £3 and all proceeds are towards the costs of restoring the church organ.

Rudd and Aniston shine in sparky commune comedy

SINCE saying farewell to her *Friends*, Jennifer Aniston has carved out a solid screen career, mainly relying on her comedic talents, but occasionally throwing in a dramatic curveball or two (*The Good Girl*).

Aniston's latest film unsurprisingly sticks to her comedic template, as she stars alongside Paul Rudd in *Wanderlust*.

The pair play George and Linda, a couple who are forced to downsize when George loses his job. When a trip to stay with George's brother doesn't work out, the pair find themselves at the Elysium commune led by the charismatic Seth (Justin Theroux); but how will the city pair cope with life in the free world...

The 'fish out of water' situation is one that is as old as time, particularly when it comes to comedy. Take an individual (or individuals), place them in a situation they are unfamiliar or uncomfortable with, and then see the results for your entertainment.

Wanderlust doesn't veer far from this parameter, but given how much it manages to hit the funny bone, you almost don't mind the predictable set-up and story beats, the film making for a diverting and amusing viewing experience without ever getting too deep into things.

The leads are key to this, both Paul Rudd and Jennifer Aniston having more than enough comedic chops to carry the film, both delivering on undemanding yet entertaining roles.

The former is becoming the go-to-guy for the everyman thrown into the unfamiliar (just see *I Love You, Man* or *Role Models*) for further evidence) and once again he delivers the goods with style.

Rudd is a more than likeable lead and hilari-

ous with it, and the film plays to his strengths without ever requiring him to overly extend himself, the actor's eminent likeability prevalent in the performance.

Aniston, too, is a skilled comedic performer with the right material and she makes a pleasing foil for Rudd, the pair thrown into a world they don't quite fully understand or grasp.

The actress, much like Rudd, relies on her comedic ability and familiarity to deliver an amusing turn that, again like Rudd, doesn't stretch her as a performer but hits the right notes at the right times.

The pair are slightly forced to play a little straight to the residents of the commune, whether it's the oily Seth, wonderfully played by Justin Theroux, who manages to get away with holding the attention when onscreen without being too over the top; nudist Wayne (Joe Lo Truglio), who manages to mine a neat line in comedy without overplaying the 'he's naked' card; or Kathryn Hahn's OTT hippy, whose overt sense of righteousness raises more than a few laughs.

Writers Ken Marino (who also plays George's brother) and David Wain get a steady comedic rhythm flowing throughout, the gag rate remaining consistent with a few big laughs thrown in here and there.

But the film doesn't really say much about the situation that George and Linda find themselves in, nor does it deal particularly well with a seemingly-shoehorned-in subplot regarding the ownership of the land that the commune is situated on being wanted by developers.

Wain's direction is solid if unspectacular, knowing where to put the camera at the right times and allowing his cast to deliver the goods to the best of their ability, and, much like *Role Models* (which he also directed), propels the

film along nicely.

While hardly knocking you out of your cinema seat in terms of originality or execution, *Wanderlust* does take a strong comedic cast and lets them perform and deliver the goods on that front. While certainly slight, it is also well worth a few hours of your life.

VERDICT

Undemanding but funny, *Wanderlust* makes for an amusing watch driven by good performances from the likes of Jennifer Aniston and Paul Rudd. You won't find any comedy revolution occurring during the running time, but you will find much to make you laugh and, on that front, *Wanderlust* can't be faulted.

Enjoyable. SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Knocked Up* (2007), *I Love You, Man* (2009)

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

Penarth Computer Club learn about the Kindle e-reader

IF you enjoy reading then you must be aware that computer technology is available for the purpose. Books are being published electronically for reading on dedicated devices called e-readers. Like all computer-based gadgets, the original design purpose has been extended to cover a wider range of functions to convince you that you cannot live without one.

Amazon says it now sells more e-books than hardbacks and paperbacks combined. We decided the time has come to take a look at e-readers.

Mike F has a Kindle (as do several members) and in order to help us decide if we should have one, he talked about what it can do.

The Kindle, as marketed by Amazon, is the most common and popular one. It comes in several varieties and compares well against those manufactured by others.

It is possible to read e-books on computers, iPhones, laptops, tablets and netbooks; so why do you need an e-reader?

As a dedicated reading device, the Kindle's prime job is to make the screen easy to read. It manages to achieve this with the use of e-ink — using 16 shades of grey. This means more comfortable reading for longer, and easy reading in sunlight (this feature is vital if you want to read on the beach or in the park).

Other features make life easier too, such as being able to enlarge the text size and insert comments and bookmarks.

Naturally, there are several versions of Kindle and plenty of competition. There could

be a particular feature that appeals to you, so a browse on-line will quickly find reviews that will help.

Improvements are being added all the time. Some will even talk to you. Currently reviews tend to favour the Kindle for most purposes, but we are all different.

The e-reader is light and pocket sized, therefore very portable. Its memory can carry thousands of books (there are 700,000 available from Kindle Store alone).

Battery life depends on how much and in what mode you use the reader, but 30 hours of use at an hour a day would mean recharging once a month. That should be OK for most people.

Books can be downloaded on-line and are cheaper than paperbacks.

There's more; apart from allowing you to sample books before buying for your collection, you can check your email, access mobile apps, display pictures, play music, use a calculator, play games, download articles and take screen shots to display on a computer.

You can also browse the web and read PDF (Portable Document Format) documents.

Mike explained where to find books and how to download them. His notes about this are on our website for viewing.

Will books eventually go the same way as the disappearing telephone kiosks?

The next meeting is on Tuesday March 13 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth at 7.30pm. Steve will take an early look at the forth-coming Windows 8. For more information call 029 20708439. HD

HISTORICAL TALK TO RAISE MONEY FOR CHURCH ORGAN

DR Jonathan Hicks will be giving a talk in All Saints Church, Barry on Tuesday, March 13 at 7pm commemorating the men named on the church's two war memorials.

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Amongst these names is that of Thomas Henry Williams who had lived at 5 The Triangle, Barry Island. He was a regular soldier and served with the 2nd Battalion of the Grenadier Guards. Aged 21, he was killed on

November 7 1914 when a German shell exploded in the trench he was standing in just outside Arques during the First Battle of Ypres. His father said that on the night his son was killed he heard him calling to him in a dream. When the Second World War came 21 years after the end of the First World War, more men from All Saints Church joined the forces.

Amongst these was Henry Samuel Thomas (husband of Marjorie Thomas) who served as an RAF flight sergeant in a Lancaster bomber as wireless operator and air gunner with 622 Squadron. His aircraft took off from Mildenhall airfield on the June 1 1944 on a

mission to bomb the railway yards at Trappes in north-central France.

The Lancaster came under sustained attack from a German Junkers 88 night fighter and exploded. One of the crew was thrown from his turret by the force of the explosion and parachuted safely to the ground where he evaded capture and made his way back to Britain. Henry Thomas was not so fortunate and he lies buried in Marissel French National Cemetery.

Dr Hicks will recall the service of many more during his talk. Entrance is just £3 and all proceeds are towards the costs of restoring the church organ.

Petition is presented in Cardiff Call for 'psychic charter' reaches Welsh Assembly

by TIM
CHAPMAN

TWO providers of 'intuitive services', who are based in the Vale, handed a petition to the Welsh Government on March 6 calling for a national charter to protect vulnerable people from unscrupulous psychics.

Lynne Caddick, and Ant Edwards of Zenery Life, presented the petition to Assembly Member, William Powell, the chair of the petitions committee.

Lynne Caddick explained the reason behind demands for an industry charter:

"A true psychic is someone who nurtures and supports the client, empowering them to take charge of their lives in a positive way and leaving them feeling uplifted and motivated."

"Unfortunately, there are many people across Wales who have had extremely negative experiences with psychics which have left them feeling vulnerable,



Lynne Caddick and Ant Edwards present the petition to the chairman of the petitions committee, Assembly Member William Powell.

distressed and even threatened by the psychic's behaviour."

Ant Edwards told The GEM: "It's an instance of someone being terrorised when they need support."

"People need to be empowered to face the future and not have to contend with new fears. "We want to see a charter adopted so that life coaches, mediums or psychics have to follow good practice."

"What we don't want is exploitation - people knocking on someone's door and taking them to

a cash point to get their payment. We know of things like this that have happened."

When the campaign was launched last year, one woman in Barry told The GEM how she had been left frightened by a reading from a medium who said her son might have a brain tumour. The claim was found to be baseless.

If the petitions committee believe the charter is worth examining, it can call people to give evidence in the coming months.

The petition can be viewed at <https://www.assembly-wales.org/gethome/e-petitions/sign-petition.html> (click on 'e-petitions no longer open for signatures').

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (KENSON BRIDGE PENMARK) (ROAD CLOSURE) (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2012

The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), and of all other enabling powers intends in not less than seven days from the date of this Notice to make an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below: -

SCHEDULE 1

1. No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to proceed in the location specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location From the junction at grid 305197 168690, adjacent to Kenson Cottage, to the western side of Penmark, continuing in a generally northwesterly direction over Kenson Bridge, and on to the junction at grid 304925 168797, to the south of Cliff Farm.

Reason To allow for essential bridge maintenance works to be carried out

Duration From 06.01Hrs on Saturday the 17th March 2012, for a maximum period of 18 months.

Alt. Route The diversion for southeast bound traffic during this closure will be from the un-named road from the junction at grid 304925 168797, to the south of Cliff Farm, in a westerly direction to the junction at grid 303990 168793, then in a southwesterly direction through the village Llanccadle, and on to the junction with the B4265 at grid 303246 167780, then continuing in a generally easterly direction along the B4265, to the junction at grid 305337 168187, turn left at this junction, and continue along this road to the junction at grid 305396 168330 and turn left again, continue along this road known as Kenson Hill, to the junction at grid 305197 168690, adjacent to Kenson Cottage, and visa-versa.

Signing: Advance signing of this closure will be in place at Pancross, at the Llanccadle junction at grid 303990 168793, and on the B4265 at both access roads to Penmark.

NB: Access to the field accesses from this road will be maintained from one end of the closure or the other during the time of these works.

Dated this 8th day of March 2012.

M. Punter,
Head of Visible Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA



St David's Day lecture tells the story of a famous Welsh sculptor



ABOVE: Barry Rotary president Dave Ball, Mrs Janice Shapland, Dr Ceri Thomas, Mrs Mary Thomas and president elect John Shapland.

MEMBERS of the Rotary Club of Barry and their guests celebrated Wales' National Day in style with a St David's Day breakfast in St Andrew's Golf Club, Barry, on March 1.

Members and guests arrived to the sound of Welsh music and the dining room resplendent in Welsh colours, with daffodils on every table.

President Dave Ball welcomed everyone, especially guest speaker Dr Ceri Thomas and his mother Mrs Mary Thomas, thanking them

all for their support so early in the morning!

Rotarian Meirion Evans then said grace in Welsh and English. After a most appetising Welsh breakfast prepared by St Andrew's Golf Club chef Gareth and his staff, Dr Ceri Thomas spoke at length about the life and work of his father, the late Robert Thomas (sculptor).

Born in 1926 in Cwmparc, Rhondda, Robert Thomas showed tremendous talent from an early age and became a sculptor after a mining accident when he fell through a colliery roof.

He lived in London from 1949 to 1971, and during his distinguished career, he met many famous people, including Diana, Princess of Wales.

His legacy lives on in many of the statues that we can see today. They include Anuerin Bevan in Queen Street, Cardiff; Diana Princess of Wales in St David's Hall, Cardiff; Carwyn James and Ryan Davies in BBC Wales' Llandaff studios.

A bust of Anuerin Bevan made by Robert Thomas can also be seen in the House of Commons, along with a Captain Cat statue in

the Maritime Quarter in Swansea.

President elect John Shapland gave a vote of thanks on behalf of Barry Rotarians and guests and president Dave Ball proposed the final toast to the Rotary movement, locally, nationally and internationally.

Rotary has 1.2million members world-

wide who form a global network of business, professional and community volunteers. The Rotary Club of Barry meets weekly in the Mount Sorrel Hotel on Thursdays 6pm for 6.30pm. If you would like further information you can contact membership chairman Peter Battle on 01446 710204.

Eisteddfod brings out the stars!

THE Rhosce WI celebrated St. David's Day with an eisteddfod on March 1, at the Community Hall, Stewart Road.

President Jenny Reed welcomed everyone and members stood for a minute's silence in memory of past and founder members Kath Mailing and Marjorie Harding, who had recently passed away.

Members then heard the minutes of the last meeting and the financial and welfare reports. The president also reminded everyone about the spring council meeting at the Memorial Hall, Barry on April 18 and asked for a delegate to represent Rhosce.

She discussed the proposed educational trip to Stanway Hall in the Cotswolds which will probably take place in June. Everyone then settled down to enjoy the eisteddfod.

Entries to the photography competition 'Village Life' were displayed on cards and Jill also thanked Joy Grant for providing photos from past WI events.

Competitions began with a game in Welsh, followed by a find the railway station competition.

Tea with Welsh cakes and bara brith allowed time to read the limericks and to look at the photography displays. People also enjoyed taking part in the 'guess the committee member' baby photo competition. After tea, came entertainment by individual members, who had chosen readings and poems which they wished to share, Stella Hughes, Beryl Lang, Shirley Hardwick, Jan Dally, Maureen Anderson, Gail Simmonds and Jill Jones taking part.

The traditional mystery item on the programme revealed Elsa Jones and Jenny Reed as Sonny and Cher, complete with wigs, moustache and fabulous costumes, miming to 'I've Got You Babe'.

June Pallister and Pam Jupp were declared joint first in the limerick competition; Jan Dally won the photography prize; Gail Simmonds guessed who the 'baby' committee members were, and Maureen Anderson won the 'stations' competition.

The raffle was won by Heather Smith, and Gail Simmonds won the monthly competition.

The president presented a plant to Jill Jones for co-ordinating the event. The evening ended with everyone singing the National Anthem.

The next meeting will be held on April 5 at the Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhosce at 7.30pm when Chris Price will talk about the work of the British Heart Foundation. New members and visitors will be very welcome.

Forthcoming events:

March 20 - annual lunch at Bear Hotel, Cowbridge 12 noon. March 23 - skittles at 2pm in Rhosce Social Club. March 29 - link meeting at 7.30pm Llanmaes WI Tuesdays at 11am coffee and chat.

Dinas Powys coffee morning

THE latest free coffee morning held by Dinas Powys councillors will be held this Saturday, March 10, from 11am-12.30pm in the Lee Hall, Britway Road.

Local Plaid councillors can also be contacted at home. This will be an opportunity to raise, in a relaxed atmosphere, matters of concern.

A Plaid spokesman said: "There are many challenges facing our

community. Of particular interest at the moment are the plans to build 400 houses in Dinas Powys.

"Residents' views are essential in ensuring that we better reflect the priorities of residents."

For more information contact Chris Franks: Ty Isaf, 41 Highwalls Avenue, Dinas Powys, by email: fami-lyfranks@btinternet.com or by calling 07725497423.

Greyhounds thank townsfolk

THANK you to the people of, and visitors to, Cowbridge, who generously supported Greyhound Welfare at our street collection and 'Meet the Greyhounds' event in the town on Saturday, March 3.

The collection raised a total of £1,417.18, which will be helpful in meeting vet's fees and kennelling costs before rescued dogs are found homes.

On the first Sunday of the month at 1pm, greyhound welfare support-

ers and their dogs walk round the lakes at Cosmeston Country Park. Prospective adopters are welcome to come along and see the greyhounds.

If you wish to enquire

about sharing life with a greyhound, telephone Paula on 01633 892846. For general information, please phone 01446 750663.

John Richfield (Volunteer helper)

MP's surgery

VALE MP Alun Cairns will be holding surgeries on Friday, March 9, at the following locations:

9.15am-10.15am, Wenvoe Community Centre; 12 noon-1.30pm, The Sportsman's Rest, Peterston Super Ely;

and 2.30pm-4pm, the County Library, King Square, Barry.

Anyone is welcome, but surgeries are very busy, so it is advisable to call 01446 403814 to make an appointment.

Choosing tyres: make sure safety comes first

BUYING part worn tyres is quite an attractive idea if you think you are saving a lot of money, but there is something far more important to consider – safety.

Surveys have shown a buoyant market for part worn tyres, but the downside is that one in three tyres is defective.

Traders should not be supplying tyres that don't reach the legal standards and are committing a criminal offence if they do.

Tyres should not have cuts that amount to more than 10 per cent of the section width of the tyre. They shouldn't have lumps, bumps or tears, and any ply or cord should not be exposed.

The grooves of the tread pattern of the tyre must be a depth of 2mm or more across the full breadth of tread and round the circumference of the

tyre.

If a tyre has not been retreaded, it must bear the correct approval mark, a speed symbol and the load capacity index.

If the tyre has been retreaded it must bear the right mark. Next to the approval mark the tyre should have 'part worn' in capital letters.

Traders who deal in part worn tyres should carry out proper checks including taking it off the rim.

Of course, the ideal is to buy new, knowing that you are getting a product at the top of its game.

Brand new tyres on a car mean you get the best grip possible in terms of driving and emergency manoeuvres.

Whatever you decide to do, make sure that safety, not saving money, is the paramount consideration.

Penarth swimmer Lloyd makes Team GB Olympic squad

PENARTH swimmer Ieuan Lloyd has become the latest Welsh athlete to guarantee a place in Team GB for this summer's Olympic Games in London after finishing second in the 200m freestyle at the British Swimming selection trials.

The 18-year-old Stanwell School A-level student is now guaranteed a place on the 4x200m relay team, despite just missing out on the individual qualification time. He still has another opportunity to secure a spot in both the 200m and 400m freestyle events at the second trial, being held at Ponds Forge, Sheffield, from June 20-23.

The Plymouth Road resident said: "I'm just over the moon. To think that I've made the team and I'll be going to the Olympics is such a great feeling."

"I made a good time in the semi and I was quite relaxed thinking that if I could put in the same performance again I could make it."

"When I walked out to



Ieuan Lloyd is one of Wales up-and-coming athletic stars.

poolside and they called my name it was an unbelievable feeling. The nerves kicked in a bit.

"On that last length I could see people around me and I gave it everything – my legs were burning. Then I turned around and saw I didn't make the individual qualifying time. My dad had been telling me before the race that I had to come in the top four for a relay place but I wasn't sure. I'm glad he was right!"

"I've still got the 200m individual medley to come and I'll be watching the rest of the Welsh swimmers, including my mate David Davies. It'll be back to training then next week."

Ieuan was taught to swim by his father at just three years-old. He joined Cardiff Swimming Club at the age of six and now trains at Cardiff International Pool with coach Dave Haller.

At just 15 he smashed the British Age Group 200m record, and went on to win silver at the UK School Games in 2008.

Last year he won gold at the European Youth Olympic Festival in both the 200m individual medley and the 4x200m freestyle relay.

Wenvoe Castle Golf Club Spring Invitation to New Members

If you are looking to join a golf club Wenvoe Castle certainly has a lot to offer.

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PUPILS' CONFIDENCE BOOST AFTER REVISION WEEKEND

BARRY Comprehensive School's year-11 pupils have their sights set firmly on the summer GCSE examinations.

A group of dedicated students and teachers gave up their weekend recently to stay at the Park Inn Hotel, Cardiff, for two days of intensive revision and examination preparation.

Pupils worked on honing their general revision and study skills along with subject specific material and examination techniques.

The pupils appreciated the time and effort put in by their teachers and were impressed by the excellent facilities provided to them at the hotel.

At the end of the weekend, pupils reported feeling highly motivated and more confident about their GCSE examinations.

Even Rhys Roberts, whose birthday fell on the weekend, was glad he chose to attend, although the giant birthday cake may have influenced his opinion!



ABOVE: Rhys enjoying the attention (and the cake) on his birthday.



Revision workshop at the Park Inn Hotel, Cardiff.



Working together to solve a problem.

Defence dominates for the Barry Bees

BARRY Bees under-9s travelled to Tondur RFC on a cold, but thankfully frost-free morning, and were given a hospitable and traditional rugby welcome.

The game started with real intensity, with a huge tackle from hard-hitting Cian Anderson forcing a turnover from the kick-off.

This set the pattern for the game, with the quality of the Bees tackling making it extremely difficult for Tondur to retain possession and cross the gain line.

The Tondur defence was also resolute and Barry were forced to go through the phases, as they launched attack after attack.

Despite the lack of early tries the quality of the rugby and level of commitment from both sides was outstanding. In the end the Barry pressure took its toll, and after a series of forward drives hooker Jacob Pereira forced his way over to give Barry a deserved lead.

Tondur responded strongly, and at last broke through the initial line of defence, but an incredible covering tackle from a diving Stephen Williams saved the try, and retained Barry's 1-0 lead at the break.

Barry intensified the pressure in the second half; and again the tackles were crunching in from both sides.

After a period of intense pressure Prop Isaac McBride smashed his way through the Tondur defence for a try in the corner.

The Bees increased the tempo to press home their advantage, and elusive winger Spencer Williams wriggled his way through the Tondur defence to make it 3-0.

Despite heroic Barry tackling, after a sustained attack going through at least 20 phases, Tondur got the score their commitment deserved.

Barry finished the game strongly, with flying centre Cian finishing an excellent move, after a great offload from James Chapman, to make the final score 4-1 to the Bees.

Stephen Williams was given the man of the match award for his all round performance at scrum half.

The Bees go from strength to strength, and all their hard work on the training paddock is paying off on match day.

Team: Isaac McBride, Jacob Pereira, Charlie Bale, Ethan Watkins, Cole Saunders, Stephen Williams, Seb Fahiya, Harrison Kelly, Cian Anderson, James Chapman, Spencer Williams.

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Family Notices

RICHARDS Kath

Passed away peacefully at home with her family present after a short illness, Kath, loving wife of the late Don, much loved mother and grandmother.
Funeral service will be held at Coychurch Crematorium on Thursday, 15th March at 2.15pm. Family flowers only, please make any donations to Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Pauline Gordon Huish

(née Hiscock) 25 Feb 1949 to 27 Feb 2012
Beloved sister of Phil Hiscock.
*What she suffered she told so few,
She did not deserve what she went through,
Tired and weary, she made no fuss;
But tried so hard to stay with us.*
Miss you always, your loving brother Phil.

PILCHER Gwyneth

Peacefully on 6 March 2012, Gwyneth of Llantwit Major, beloved wife of Ron, and a dearly loved mother of Michael, David, Tony and Martin.
She was a loving mother in law, grandmother and great-grandmother, and will be sadly missed.
Resting at WA Brown, College St, Llantwit Major until the funeral service in Coychurch Crematorium on Wednesday 14th March at 2.45pm. No flowers.
Donations may be made to Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only please).

BLUCK**David Frederick George**

Peacefully on Tuesday February 28 at UHW, Cardiff, David, aged 56 years, of Llyswoyney.
Dearly loved husband of Diane, loving father of Richard and Sarah and father-in-law of Natalie, beloved son of the late George and Barbara Bluck, devoted brother of Pat and the late John and Ann, brother-in-law of Trevor, Gill and Tony, much loved uncle of Vince and Alex, Debbie and Richard, Karen and Wayne.
No more struggling Dave. Sleep peacefully. Night night God Bless.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon, until the funeral on Monday March 12 at St Tydfil's Church, Llyswoyney at 2.15pm followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium. Bridging at 3.45pm. Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu if desired may be sent to The Cystic Fibrosis Trust c/o J James, 11 Fommon Road, Rhose, CF62 3DZ.

TROTT Heather

TEN YEARS ON MARCH 6.
On beautiful Bossington mountain by the sea, you loved so very much.



*I miss your wonderful smile,
and happy life we had together.
That's with me all the time.
We all miss you so very much.
John and your dear family. XXX*

SILVESTER Raymond

Jill Silvester and her family would like to thank the many friends and neighbours for such overwhelming support and love in our sad loss of Ray. Thanks also to the ones who could attend Ray's funeral service lead by the Reverend David Treharne which was comforting and uplifting; also William James & Sons Funeral Directors, who were professional, kind, caring and respectful. Our warmest thanks and love. God Bless you all.

To see your Family Notice in The GEM, please contact us on 01446 774484 or via e-mail at gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk

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Ladies celebrate St Davids Day



Sian Lovell, Andrea Caines of the Daffs team with Judy James.

A St David's day competition was organised for the ladies of Cottrell Park Golf Club on March 1.

On a sunny day, they played an individual 12-hole competition, representing the Leeks and Daffodils teams.

Following a very nice lunch which was attended by 40 ladies, the presen-

tation of prizes took place by the Ladies' captain, Judy James.

The winner of the Daffodils team was Sian Lovell with 24 points and runner up Andrea Caines with 23 points.

In the Leeks team, the winner was Jan Cosby 24 points, and runner up was Chris Evans (22).

CB



Jan Cosby and Chris Evans of the Leeks team.

VALE SCHOOLS GRAB CONCLUSIVE VICTORY

LAST week on a crisp Tuesday evening, the Vale District Schools welcomed Pontypridd District Schools for their return fixture under floodlights at Penarth.

Their last encounter was an excellent game of quality rugby and the Vale were just came out the winners.

This game started as the last with some excellent passing play from

the visitors. A quick try in the corner from Ponty resulted and from the kick off their attacks were testing the Vale's defence.

It looked as if Ponty were going to run in a few tries but this talented Vale side kept them out time after time.

Soon, it was the home side's turn to use the ball with some slick moves of their own. Mike Bosley was almost sent over but the final pass to put him clear fell short.

That same attack broke to the other side of

the field and with a great threequarter move, the Vale went over to level the score against the run of play.

Just before the half the home side went over to go into the break 12-5 ahead.

Pontypridd started strong again and were dominating the breakdown ball and levelled the score soon into the half.

A close period of play resulted with both teams but with a dominant displays by Arron Arthur, Ruben Williams and Jamie Howells, the home side began to take control of the game.

Some great set plays set up further attacking moves and the Vale went over for a few more scores before the whistle to complete a great victory over a very strong Pontypridd side, the final score being 28-17.

MB

DEFEAT ADDS INSULT TO INJURIES AS BARRY SECONDS ARE BEATEN

BARRY Second XV finally returned to league action away at St. Albans.

With experienced players such as Nick Rolfe, Joel Williams and Richie Williams missing due to injury, and Tom Poole, Alex Evans and Dave Hosking all called up to the first XV, it was a tough task for the side to get a result in their first match in over a month.

Coach Rhydian Scott handed a debut to Elliot Evans on the wing, while Joe McCann returned in Barry's colours for the first time in four years, occupying

the No. 9 shirt.

He was hoping that despite the lack of the normal regular starting XV, the rest of the players would step up to the mark.

Unfortunately that was not to be the case. St. Albans took the upper hand right from the off, as their aggressive approach to the contact area proved too much for the away side to handle.

Barry's cause were not helped by veteran Andy Moffat leaving the field with only 10 minutes gone, and he was swiftly followed by prop Jason Thomas.

The home side pressed on and capi-

**ST ALBANS 2ND XV 45
BARRY 2ND XV 5**

talised on the general malaise shown by the away side, and by half time were two scores clear.

A collective lack of fitness, poor control of the ball in the contact area, and a mis-firing set-piece, together with the nullification of the Barry pack through uncontested scrums, set St Albans up for more scores in the second half.

A brief respite was given when David Williams capped off a fine individual perform-

ance to storm through several tackles before touching down for his fifth try of the season. McCann was unable to add the extras in the swirling wind.

There were some positive defensive performances, notably from Owain Poole, Lee Jones and the recalled Danny Williams, but individual efforts were never enough for a game which was supposed to be played with 15-a-side.

Both Adam Lee and the substitute Hall

limped off late on with injuries, the former to be replaced by Barrians player-manager Ken Chow, adding to the growing list on the treatment table for the away side, which will prove to be further worries for the coaching staff.

Team: M. Jones; Evans, Dave Williams, Hewitson, Jenkins; McCann, Lee; Thomas, L. Jones, Lundy; Moffat, Tobin; Case (captain), Poole, Dan Williams

Subs used: Summerhayes, Hall, Houldley, Chow
Man-of-the-match: Poole.

KC

Community Chest grant scheme give young footballers a boost



ABOVE: Peterston Junior FC are celebrating a boost from the Community Chest scheme.

PETERSTON Junior Football Club is celebrating after netting a funding boost from the Community Chest grants scheme that will enable them to set up a further age

group next season to give children an even earlier opportunity to develop their skills.

Set up less than two years ago, Peterston currently runs teams for football-mad boys in the under-10s and under-8s

own after a sin bin for Seaview's McCarthy.

Seaview tries came from Melissa Clay, Savannah Taylor and Rafiuke Taylor. Kicking duties on the day fell to Savannah Taylor.

Seaview Ravens would like to thank Welshpool Ladies for their hospitality and look forward to the return fixture in a few weeks.

Seaview squad: Forwards, Jodie Jordan, Sarah Richard, Sarah Hillier, Roxanne Long, Mel Curran, Lisa Wride, Tracy McCarthy, Kat Reed, Lisa Jordan

Backs, Rafiuke Taylor, Melissa Clay, Sian Owen, Gemma Dring, Laura Haysham, Karen Cooper, Savannah Taylor.

RJ

age groups, and the grant, totalling £1,249.33, will help them to purchase goals, balls, cones, bibs and other training equipment, while the funding will also go towards paying for vital indoor training sessions throughout the season.

Coach Gareth Hardman said: "Local parents came together in 2012 to set up the club and from small beginnings of five or six children, we now have a very popular and well-attended club.

"Currently, our under-10s are the only team that trains during the week, so this Community Chest grant will be a great help and allow the younger boys to train too."

Peterston Junior Football Club were one of 26 sports clubs and organisations from across the Vale that shared a Community Chest pot of £25,018.39 in the latest round of grant awards.

To join Peterston Junior Football Club, call Gareth Hardman on 07723 010789 or email ghardman@waitrose.co.uk.

Tennis open day

DINAS Powys Lawn Tennis Club on St Andrews Road will be holding an open day on Saturday, March 17, from 9.30am to 2pm.

Try your hand at playing tennis, meet club members with the club coach, Rob Walbyoff (Tel.07931665431); rackets can be provided.

The club offers opportunities to play tennis at all levels, from beginners to international players, and all ages from under fives upwards.

There is an active social calendar for members throughout the year and we look forward to seeing you.

NW

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VALE KARATE'S YOUNGEST TIGERS TRY OUT NEW MATS



The Vale Tigers on the new mats at the Hub.

Tom's Scottish adventure



Lenzie RFC president Donald Brodie and Tom Adams.

PHOTO BY MARK ADAMS

RECENTLY, Barry RFC under-16s and youth player Tom Adams went on holiday to Scotland for a week and was invited to train with local Scottish team Lenzie RFC at their club with the seconds.

Tom said: "I was a bit apprehensive as I didn't know anyone but was excited at the same time. Their training is totally different style to ours."

"They made me very welcome and helped me by explaining to me and showing me what to do during the training session."

"To my surprise at the end of the training session I was invited to join in a match that Lenzie was playing away at Cumbernauld RFC on

Saturday. I came on at the beginning of the second half and played for the whole of the second half."

Tom nearly went on to score a try himself, and said after the match: "It was a good match and a good experience playing with another team, especially a Scottish team."

Lenzie RFC president Donald Brodie presented Tom with one of the club's new match shirts and in return Tom presented him a Barry RFC shirt, which they were delighted to receive, and said it would be mounted and put onto their clubhouse wall.

Lenzie will be touring in Wales in the future and it is hoped that a match between Lenzie RFC and Barry RFC can be arranged.

VALE Karate has recently acquired a new training surface, thanks to the fund-raising efforts of their members at their base at Barry's YMCA Hub.

The membership were extremely supportive in Vale Karate's fund-raising drive, including the children's parents, who enjoyed a fun class.

Vale Karate would like to thank all who contributed, including Aberhaw Power Station, A G Adams Funeral Directors, and each and every person who helped raise funds, including Drew Williams who raised a substantial amount by having his chest waxed in class.

Tim lands winners

ALAND Islands landed the Lynn Spowart Birthday Novices Hurdle at Doncaster last Saturday for Aberthyn trainer Tim Vaughan.

Partnered by Will Kennedy, the six-year old Aland Islands, who was made the 5-2 favourite, scored by seven lengths from Annon Lad.

At Newbury on Friday, Charm School, ridden by Adam Wedge, was a good winner for Llanccarfan's Evan Williams.

Evan David and his brother Tom both rode winners at the weekend. Tom was successful on Woodview Prince for Shelia Crow at the Ross Harriers Hunt Steeplechases and Evan won on David Brace's Son Of Swallow at the Beaufort Hunt meeting.

Recent Howick winner The Snail, owned by Cowbridge's Jeff Bird and trained by his brother-in-law Jonathan Tudor, travels to Cilwendig on Sunday where he has been entered at the Tivyside Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases.

POINT-TO-POINT

Beth Roberts's 11-year-old Chesnut Annie chalked-up win number 31 (29 point-to-points and two hunter chases) when landing the ladies' open race at the Brecon & Talybont Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases under Sally Randell on Saturday.

However, Wales's most popular point-to-pointer still has a long way to go to beat the record of Mandryka, who in the 1970s won 38 ladies' open races – all with Shan Morgan aboard – five men's open races and a hunter chase.

Sally wasn't able to dominate the race from the start as she usually does as Beyond Dreams, who had lost her maiden tag at the corresponding meeting last year, went off like a scalded cat.

It wasn't until six fences from home that Chesnut Annie went well clear and drawing away in the final stages, went on to win by a distance from recent Cilwendig winner Cannon Bridge (Hannah Lewis) with Balaic Star (Jodie Hughes) a further three lengths away in third spot.

The day's riding honours went to 17-year-old Bradley Gibbs from Ynysybwyl, who rode his first ever hat-trick.

He took the confined race on Books

Review, the men's open race on Silver Story and the second division of the maiden race on Lemonade Jack.

Books Review was a seven lengths winner from Rapid Artist (John Mathias), Silver Story had half-a-length to spare over Rosies Peacock (John Mathias) and Lemonade Jack won by four lengths from Icanasingarainbow (Dave Mansell).

In the members' race, Marc Barber on Rebel Alliance, the 8-1 outsider of four, made most of the running to win by five lengths from Plunge (Leo Mahon).

Welsh champion rider John Mathias is one win shy of his 100th winner (he has chalked-up his 89 point-to-point winners and 10 under rules) after making every post a winning one on Superman De La Rue, owned and trained by West Wales trainer Dai Rees, in the restricted race.

Dave Mansell easily won the first division of the maiden on Lady Bussell, a six-year-old bay mare trained by his wife Julie. Lady Bussell is owned by David Morgan and John de Lisle Wells.

Evan David won a division of the maiden race on David Brace's Son Of Swallow at Saturday's Duke of Beaufort meeting and his older brother Tom was successful on Woodview Prince in the restricted race at Sunday's Ross Harriers meeting.

BRUSLINI'S LONG

TRIP PAYS OFF
HAVE horses, will travel, is the motto of Llanccarfan trainer Evan Williams after he sent his seven-year-old Bruslini on a 275-mile journey to a Catterick.

The long trip paid handsome dividends when the French-bred gelding jumped his five rivals silly, coming home alone under T J O'Brien.

Bruslini jumped well to land the Dine And View at Catterick Races Beginners' Chase after making every post a winning.

BRIAN LEE

MOTORING WITH TIM SAUNDERS

Suzuki's brand new motor is going up against the Mondeos

SASHIMI, sukiyaki and sushi are three words associated with Japan, and foods that appeal to those with a taste for the unusual.

Now there's the emperor-sounding Kizashi to add to the list. But this is a Japanese delicacy of the four-wheeled variety. Where Vauxhall Insignias and Ford Mondeos are the cod and chips of every day motoring, the striking Suzuki is the more invigorating oriental dish that will spice up any mundane commute.

It's an attractive vehicle that, when looking at the rear, doesn't look too far removed from the BMW 3-series.

A rear spoiler and low front bumper hint at its sporty credentials – 0 to 60mph in under nine seconds.

Chrome exhausts cut into the back bumper create further impact. This curvaceous beauty incorporates a good amount of chrome on the doors and the grille, which is quite unusual



The Suzuki Kizashi.

these days and very effective.

Initially, the sleek and compact exterior makes you think it's probably only a 1.6-litre and perhaps a 2-litre at a push. And so it's surprising to learn that there's a 2.4-litre 177bhp lump nestling under the bonnet.

More surprises come on entering the cabin, where you find heated and electrically adjustable front leather seats, air conditioning, all round electric windows and even an electrically operated glass sunroof – equipment levels that begin to encroach upon BMW and even Jaguar territory.

The Kizashi, with its blacked out rear windows and roomy interior, offers an enjoyable relaxed drive thanks to

its smooth six-speed automatic. Thrill seekers will enjoy the paddle shifts and the all-wheel drive function for faster, more challenging driving.

This is an excellent car that covers 500 miles on a tank – not bad for a petrol engine.

Parkers, the car experts, say: "On looks alone Suzuki's new Kizashi saloon shows promise. This slick four-door is the Japanese manufacturer's first UK foray into the so-called D-segment currently dominated by the Ford Mondeos and Vauxhall Insignias of this world."

The Suzuki has surprised me in every respect.

New price: £21,995 – 2.4 Sport 4x4 4d CVT; Economy: 40mpg; Top speed: 127mph; 0-60mph: 8.5secs

The debate still rages on about the TMO climax of the England-Wales game

A try or not a try?

IN answer to Jim Morgan's letter (The GEM, March 1), one has to say the English commentators have a point.

How many times have we Taffs felt wronged with a perception that a perfectly valid try was not given?

Jim cites three options the referee has in making his decision, but that deci-

sion might, in hindsight, be wrong (yes, I am aware of the first two laws of rugby*). That is where the "disallowed try" shout goes up and that is where the England fans think they have a case.

In this case, there was one camera angle that showed Strettle did in fact ground the ball for just a fraction of a second – maybe this camera angle was not available to the TMO.

If it had been, he would

have seen that Strettle's hand was holding the underside of the ball at the time and no downward pressure means that "no try" was the correct decision, but for the wrong reason.

But to say "Let's hear no more of it" is just wishful thinking. These debatable moments are what watching sport is all about; stats books and video refs are the worst thing that ever happened to the game, they just stifle controversy, suppress cogitation and smother contention – they have no place in the game – any game.

Now, anyone for an argument?

* Law 1 – The referee is always right.
Law 2 – In the event that the referee is wrong, refer to Law 1.

Gerwyn Thomas, Llantwit Major

Controversy the name of the game

FAR be it for me to contradict that noted letter-writer, Jim Morgan (GEM letters last week), but I cannot agree with his conclusion to the letter, "Not a try, so let's move on."

I do not dispute Jim's facts, but controversy has always had a part in Welsh rugby. Who can forget that famous day, December 16, 1905, when Wales beat the All Blacks?

Teddy Morgan scored a try for Wales, and Bob Deans claimed, even on his death bed, he had scored for New Zealand, saying he had crossed the line and been

dragged back. Perhaps his last words were "It was a try".

And we all know that Paul Ringer was innocent.

Vivian Kelly, Llantwit Major

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GEM sport

Welsh football says farewell to a legend

Those with any love of football will have no doubt felt a hollow feeling on November 27 of last year when news broke of the death of Wales manager Gary Speed.

Having only been in charge of the national team for a year, Speed had turned a young team,

who promised much but who fell short, into a group of players capable of realising their potential.

Wales ended their Euro 2012 qualifying campaign on the front foot, and when Speed's men dispatched Norway emphatically by four goals to one last November, the portents were that come the World Cup 2014 quali-

fiers, Wales were within sight of breaking their elusive hoodoo when it came to big tournaments.

Sadly, the death of Speed means that his good work now must be carried on by new manager Chris Coleman, who must lift not just himself but also the players and Welsh supporters in general. Speed was, almost without exception, highly

by GARETH JAMIESON

regarded as both a player and manager.

The first step in overcoming the grief, at least in footballing terms, was the memorial game held at Cardiff City Stadium last week, which saw 23,000 fans, former players and associates of Speed gather to pay their

respects, with the team facing Costa Rica, the opponents for the first of Speed's 85 caps for his country.

The outpouring of emotion was a fitting tribute to Speed, with the players, many of whom were visibly emotional during the most passionate rendition of the national anthem heard at a football game for some

time, certainly affected come game-time, as Costa Rica grabbed an early lead through Joel Campbell, one they didn't let slip as Welsh pressure came to nought.

Wales now face Mexico in America in May before Coleman leads the players through a tricky, but passable, World Cup group, with qualification certainly achievable.

What a tribute it would be to Gary Speed if this Welsh team, inspired and galvanised by Speed's belief and faith in them, were to qualify for their first tournament since 1958.

If so, you can imagine that somewhere, 'Speedo' will be looking down on them with a smile on his face.

BARRY RFC BACK IN FORM WITH PENYGRAIG AWAY WIN

WINTER certainly returned to the Rhondda last Saturday with wet, windy and cold weather welcoming Barry to Penygraig.

The home team elected to play with the elements in the first half. Under these circumstances it was necessary that Barry should retain their shape in defence and make the most of any scoring opportunities to come their way.

It was Penygraig who drew first blood when a penalty from fully 40 metres confirmed the strength of the wind.

The visitors were not deterred by this setback and continued with a disciplined approach.

This had its reward on the 15-minute mark with a good Bustitil try wide out which remained unconverted.

Barry now began to dominate at ruck and maul with Hollister, Evans and Bowditch prominent. This set up halfbacks Gallivan and

Hardy to made good progress along the touchlines.

There became a feel good factor about Barry's play and it resulted in some excellent passing, producing a gem of a try for Alex Evans near the corner flag. Ryan added the extra points with a long-range conversion.

The visitors closed out the first session with good ball retention by Jones, Deguara and McTavish. The latter did, however, blot his copy book by earning an unnecessary yellow card for an off-side offence.

The visitors now had the opportunity to play with the strong wind at their backs and Penygraig set about their work with far greater urgency than they had shown previously.

One man down, Barry had their work cut out to keep the home team at bay.

Despite heroic defensive effort, the Rhondda side closed the gap on

PENYGRAIG RFC	8
BARRY RFC	26

the scorecard after 10 minutes.

Their very impressive scrum-half gathered his own chip ahead to score a well-deserved try; the attempt at the conversion was less impressive!

Barry now began to exert strong pressure on the home defence with

some of the best rugby they have played for months.

Replacement wing Chucas made an instant impression with a very sharply-taken try. Ryan's kick sailing over the bar adding the extras.

There followed a purple patch for Barry who swept the length of

the field in one flowing movement to score the try of the match.

It was fittingly the bonus-point-winning try.

All the players were playing for each other and the team as a whole and the side was functioning in a style that was unrecognizable from that of the past weeks.

If the final score was flattering to the victors it was, nonetheless, won by a team showing

superior skill and ability and a stronger will to succeed.

Barry: Ryan, Adams, Bustitil, Provis, Alex Evans, Hardy, Gallivan, Hollister, Alun Evans, Bowditch, Tavish, Deguara, Jones, Parker, O'Sullivan, Replacements: Chucas, Harrison, Hoskins, Poole.

The next game is home to Nantymoel, kick off 2.30pm on March, 24.

CO

Wales must beware of complacency against 'lowly' Italy

by Don John

IF, as seems highly unlikely, Wales head coach Warren Gatland considered ringing the changes for the starting team against Italy on Saturday, it would have been no more than a passing thought.

For not only would it be hugely unfair on players who had given their all in bringing home a 20th Triple Crown, but the canny Kiwi knows it would also present a needless risk in a banana skin encounter that could yet torpedo hopes of another coveted Grand Slam.

The supporters will once again flood into the Millennium Stadium expecting to see Welsh power sweep aside a team that has already shipped 91 points in three Six Nations games, but Gatland is fully aware of the danger of complacency facing his young team.

After all, even in defeat, the fast-improving Italians have shown they are infinitely capable of causing an upset.

Moreover, they have already tasted some success at the same stadium – in 2006, when they held a stunned Wales to an 18-18 draw.

Gatland has taken out insurance by selecting his strongest line-up, minus injured captain Sam Warburton, who is replaced by the promising Osprey, Justin Tipuric.

There is only one other change to the starting team that performed so gruffly at Twickenham – unfortunate hooker Ken Owens having to make way for the returning former skipper and Scarlets team mate, Matthew Rees.

With Ospreys Alun Wyn Jones and Ian Evans pairing up in the second row, Ryan Jones, who has been in quite outstanding form, is also unlucky in having to return to the replacements' bench, alongside the returning Luke Charteris.

WALES TEAM v Italy: Leigh Halfpenny (Blues); Alex Cuthbert (Blues), Jonathan Davies (Scarlets), Jamie Roberts (Blues), George North (Scarlets); Rhys Priestland (Scarlets), Michael Phillips (Bayonne); Gethin Jenkins (Blues, capt), Matthew Rees (Scarlets), Adam Jones (Ospreys), Alun Wyn Jones (Ospreys), Ian Evans (Ospreys), Dan Lydiate (Dragons), Justin Tipuric (Ospreys), Toby Faletau (Dragons).
REPLACEMENTS: Ken Owens (Scarlets), Paul James (Ospreys), Luke Charteris (Dragons), Ryan Jones (Ospreys), Lloyd Williams (Scarlets), James Hook (Perpignan), Scott Williams (Scarlets).

Dinas take their revenge with a one-sided victory

THIS was revenge for the three-two loss at Newcastle Emlyn, and when went Dinas two goals up at half-time, thoughts went back to that game when they threw away a similar lead.

The home side started the game with the confidence of three successive victories behind them and dominated the opening 10 minutes.

Gareth Tedstone should have done better than to head a Steve Provis cross over the crossbar from no more than five yards, while at the other end, keeper Damien Lack had to be alert to dive on the ball just ahead of Emlyn's Ryan Evans.

Fifteen minutes into the game Steffan Davies thought he had won a penalty when he appeared to be brought down deep in the Emlyn area but the referee was well placed and waved away his appeal.

Seven minutes later, Dinas got the opening goal, they were awarded a free-kick wide on the right taken by Adam Raymond, when Steffan Davies challenged James Mason in the Emlyn goal; both players missed the ball and it ended in the back of

WELSH LEAGUE DIVISION TWO	
DINAS POWYS	3
NEWCASTLE EMLYN	0

the net.

A couple of minutes later they were two up, this time, following a throw. Mike Lewis put in a pin-point cross and Robbie Fowler was on hand to glance the ball into the net from close range.

A couple of minutes before half-time, Fowler should have had his second and Dinas's third when he was put clear but shot wide of the upright from 12 yards.

Dinas started the second-half on the front foot, with wide-men Fowler and Jeremy a constant thorn in the visitors' side, and when Fowler won a corner on the right, Jeremy's in-swinging was headed off the line and clear.

Dinas' third goal was made and scored by Steffan Davies. He powered his way past a couple of defenders and into the area before crossing low and hard; the ball rebounded back to Davies, who hadn't stopped running, and he finished with a shot high into the net.

The visitors made sporadic visits into the Dinas half with Huw Jones, and Nick

and for the second game running keeper Damien Lack was a virtual spectator.

Squad: Damian Lack, Steve Provis, Keiron Harman, Mike Lewis, Dave Penikett (captain), Adam Raymond, Robbie Fowler, Richard Yarr, Steffan Davies, Gareth Tedstone, Liam Jeremy, Nicky Bruce, Will Penikett, Joe Briscoombe, Mark Duford.

Next game: Welsh League Division Two, Saturday, March 10 - Dinas Powys v Caerau, kick off 2:30pm.

For further news and fixtures see the club's website:

www.dinaspowysfc.co.uk

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